

26 | that has been designated by a county, a municipal street that
 27 | has been designated by a municipality, ~~or~~ a two-lane county road
 28 | located within the jurisdiction of a municipality designated by
 29 | that municipality, or a road that is owned and maintained by a
 30 | water control district and has been designated by that water
 31 | control district, for use by golf carts. Before ~~Prior to~~ making
 32 | such a designation, the responsible local governmental entity
 33 | must first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or
 34 | cross the public road or street, considering factors including
 35 | the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using
 36 | the road or street, and if such designation is to be made by a
 37 | water control district, the district must also receive approval
 38 | from the county in which the road to be designated is located.
 39 | Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a
 40 | designated road or street, the responsible governmental entity
 41 | shall post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is
 42 | allowed.

43 | (7) A golf cart may not be operated on public roads or
 44 | streets by a any person who does not possess a valid learner's
 45 | driver license or valid driver license under the age of 14.

46 | (8) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance
 47 | relating to:

48 | ~~(a) Golf cart operation and equipment which is more~~
 49 | ~~restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon~~
 50 | ~~enactment of such ordinance, the local governmental entity shall~~

51 ~~post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents that~~
52 ~~such an ordinance exists and that it will be enforced within the~~
53 ~~local government's jurisdictional territory. An ordinance~~
54 ~~referred to in this section must apply only to an unlicensed~~
55 ~~driver.~~

56 ~~(b)~~ golf cart operation on sidewalks adjacent to specific
57 segments of municipal streets, county roads, or state highways
58 within the jurisdictional territory of the local governmental
59 entity if:

60 (a)1. The local governmental entity determines, after
61 considering the condition and current use of the sidewalks, the
62 character of the surrounding community, and the locations of
63 authorized golf cart crossings, that golf carts, bicycles, and
64 pedestrians may safely share the sidewalk;

65 (b)2. The local governmental entity consults with the
66 Department of Transportation before adopting the ordinance;

67 (c)3. The ordinance restricts golf carts to a maximum
68 speed of 15 miles per hour and permits such use on sidewalks
69 adjacent to state highways only if the sidewalks are at least 8
70 feet wide;

71 (d)4. The ordinance requires the golf carts to meet the
72 equipment requirements in subsection (6). However, the ordinance
73 may require additional equipment, including horns or other
74 warning devices required by s. 316.271; and

75 (e)5. The local governmental entity posts appropriate

76 signs or otherwise informs residents that the ordinance exists
 77 and applies to such sidewalks.

78 (9) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic
 79 infraction, punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a moving
 80 violation for infractions of subsections (1)-(5) or a local
 81 ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to
 82 subsection (8), or punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a
 83 nonmoving violation for infractions of subsection (6),
 84 subsection (7), or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and
 85 enacted pursuant to subsection (8).

86 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 316.2125, Florida
 87 Statutes, is amended to read:

88 316.2125 Operation of golf carts within a retirement
 89 community.—

90 ~~(3) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance~~
 91 ~~regarding golf cart operation and equipment which is more~~
 92 ~~restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon~~
 93 ~~enactment of any such ordinance, the local governmental entity~~
 94 ~~shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents~~
 95 ~~that such an ordinance exists and that it shall be enforced~~
 96 ~~within the local government's jurisdictional territory. An~~
 97 ~~ordinance referred to in this section must apply only to an~~
 98 ~~unlicensed driver.~~

99 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of
 100 section 316.2126, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

101 316.2126 Authorized use of golf carts, low-speed vehicles,
 102 and utility vehicles.—

103 (1) In addition to the powers granted by ss. 316.212 and
 104 316.2125, municipalities are authorized to use golf carts and
 105 utility vehicles, as defined in s. 320.01, upon any state,
 106 county, or municipal roads located within the corporate limits
 107 of such municipalities, subject to the following conditions:

108 (a) Golf carts and utility vehicles must comply with the
 109 operational and safety requirements in ss. 316.212 and 316.2125,
 110 ~~and with any more restrictive ordinances enacted by the local~~
 111 ~~governmental entity pursuant to s. 316.212(8),~~ and shall be
 112 operated only by municipal employees for municipal purposes,
 113 including, but not limited to, police patrol, traffic
 114 enforcement, and inspection of public facilities.

115 (b) In addition to the safety equipment required in s.
 116 316.212(6) ~~and any more restrictive safety equipment required by~~
 117 ~~the local governmental entity pursuant to s. 316.212(8),~~ such
 118 golf carts and utility vehicles must be equipped with sufficient
 119 lighting and turn signal equipment.

120 Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
 121 322.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

122 322.04 Persons exempt from obtaining driver license.—

123 (1) The following persons are exempt from obtaining a
 124 driver license:

125 ~~(c) Any person operating a golf cart, as defined in s.~~

CS/CS/HB 949

2023

126 | ~~320.01, which is operated in accordance with the provisions of~~
127 | ~~s. 316.212.~~

128 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.