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Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

May 26, 2011

**H. 3259**

Introduced by Reps. Herbkersman and Forrester

S. Printed 5/26/11--S. [SEC 5/27/11 12:53 PM]

Read the first time April 7, 2011.

**THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3259) to amend Section 56‑3‑115, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the operation of golf carts along the state’s highways, so as to provide, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑2‑105. (A) For the purposes of this section, ‘gated community’ means any homeowners’ community with at least one controlled access ingress and egress which includes the presence of a guard house, a mechanical barrier, or another method of controlled conveyance.

(B) An individual or business owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart may obtain a permit decal and registration from the Department of Motor Vehicles upon presenting proof of ownership and financial responsibility for the golf cart and upon payment of a five dollar fee.

(1) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated within four miles of the address on the registration certificate and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less.

(2) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated within four miles of a point of ingress and egress to a gated community and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less.

(3) During daylight hours only, within four miles of the registration holder’s address, and while traveling along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less, a permitted golf cart may cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than thirty‑five miles an hour.

(4) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less on an island not accessible by a bridge designed for use by automobiles.

(D) A person operating a permitted golf cart must be at least sixteen years of age and hold a valid driver’s license. The operator of a permitted golf cart being operated on a highway or street must have in his possession:

(1) the registration certificate issued by the department;

(2) proof of financial responsibility for the golf cart; and

(3) his driver’s license.

(E)(1) A golf cart permit must be replaced with a new permit every five years, or at the time the permit holder changes his address.

(2) Golf cart owners holding golf cart permits on or before October 1, 2011, will have until September 30, 2015, to obtain a replacement permit.

(F) A political subdivision may, on designated streets on roads within the political subdivision’s jurisdiction, reduce the area in which a permitted golf cart may operate from four miles to no less than two miles. However, a political subdivision may not reduce or otherwise amend the other restrictions placed on the operation of a permitted golf cart contained in this section.”

SECTION 2. Section 56‑3‑115 of the 1976 Code is repealed.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect October 1, 2011.

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

LAWRENCE K. GROOMS for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑115, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ALONG THE STATE’S HIGHWAYS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT WHEN A GOLF CART OWNER’S RESIDENCE IS LOCATED WITHIN A GATED COMMUNITY THE TWO‑MILE LIMIT WITHIN WHICH A GOLF CART OWNER MAY OPERATE HIS GOLF CART MUST BE MEASURED FROM THE COMMUNITY’S PRIMARY ENTRANCE AND NOT FROM THE OWNER’S RESIDENCE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF A GOLF CART ALONG A SECONDARY HIGHWAY OR STREET ON CERTAIN SEA ISLANDS, TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR THE TERM “GATED COMMUNITY”, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A GOLF CART MAY CROSS CERTAIN SECONDARY HIGHWAYS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 56‑3‑115 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑115. (A) The owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart, if he has a valid driver’s license, may obtain a permit from the Department of Motor Vehicles upon the payment of a fee of five dollars and proof of financial responsibility which permits his agent, employees, or him to:

(1) operate the golf cart on a secondary highway or street within two miles of his residence or place of business during daylight hours only. When the owner’s residence is located within a gated community the two‑mile limit must be measured from the community’s entrances; ~~and~~

(2) cross a primary highway or street while traveling along a secondary highway or street within two miles of his residence or place of business during daylight hours only; and

(3) operate a golf cart along a secondary highway or street on a sea island whose total area is greater than eight square miles, but less than ten square miles.

(B) As contained in this section, ‘gated community’ means any homeowners’ community with at least one controlled access ingress and egress which includes the presence of a guard house, a mechanical barrier, or another method of controlled conveyance.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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