

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: H3/12/25

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1606

5 By: Representative Steimel  
6 By: Senator Dees  
7

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF  
10 CERTAIN VEHICLES ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS; TO AMEND THE LAW  
11 CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE ON  
12 A PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY; TO ALLOW A LOCAL  
13 GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF A UTILITY  
14 TASK VEHICLE ON A DESIGNATED PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY  
15 WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT’S JURISDICTION; TO  
16 ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE  
17 OPERATING ON A PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY; AND FOR  
18 OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

21 TO ALLOW A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO AUTHORIZE  
22 THE OPERATION OF A UTILITY TASK VEHICLE  
23 ON A DESIGNATED PUBLIC STREET OR HIGHWAY  
24 WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT’S  
25 JURISDICTION SUBJECT TO CERTAIN  
26 REQUIREMENTS.  
27

28  
29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

30  
31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-21-101 is amended to read as follows:  
32 27-21-101. Purpose.

33 It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to regulate the use of  
34 recreational all-terrain vehicles ~~by restricting their use~~ and utility task  
35 vehicles on the public streets and highways of this state. This law seeks to  
36 ensure the safety and general welfare of the citizens of Arkansas by limiting



1 the situations where all-terrain vehicles and utility task vehicles are  
2 permitted to be used in a dangerous and unsafe fashion.

3  
4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-21-102(1)(C), concerning the definitions  
5 used in the laws relating to all-terrain vehicles, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 (C) "All-terrain vehicle" does not include a utility task  
8 vehicle, golf cart, riding lawnmower, or lawn or garden tractor;

9  
10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-21-102(4)(B) and (C), concerning the  
11 definitions used in the laws relating to all-terrain vehicles, are amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (B) "Recreational off-highway vehicle" includes a+  
14 ~~(i) Multipurpose~~ multipurpose off-highway utility  
15 vehicle; ~~and~~

16 ~~(ii) Utility task vehicle.~~

17 (C) "Recreational off-highway vehicle" does not include a  
18 utility task vehicle, golf cart, riding lawnmower, or lawn or garden tractor.

19  
20 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-21-102, concerning definitions used in  
21 the laws relating to all-terrain vehicles, is amended to add an additional  
22 subdivision to read as follows:

23 (5)(A) "Utility task vehicle" means a vehicle that:

24 (i) Is eighty inches (80") or less in width;

25 (ii) Travels on four (4) or more low-pressure tires;

26 (iii) Has a steering wheel;

27 (iv) Has non-straddle seating;

28 (v) Has a rollover protection system;

29 (vi) Is designed for or capable of travel over  
30 unimproved terrain; and

31 (vii) Is powered by an internal combustion engine  
32 that has an engine displacement of at least nine hundred cubic centimeters  
33 (900 cc).

34 (B) "Utility task vehicle" does not include an all-terrain  
35 vehicle, a golf cart, a riding lawnmower, or a lawn or garden tractor.

36

1 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code §§ 27-21-103 and 27-21-104 are amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 27-21-103. Construction.

4 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require an all-terrain  
5 vehicle or a utility task vehicle to be registered as a motor vehicle,  
6 motorcycle, or motor-driven cycle for operation on the public streets and  
7 highways.

8  
9 27-21-104. Penalty.

10 ~~Any~~ A person violating the provisions of this chapter ~~shall be upon~~  
11 conviction is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor ~~and upon conviction thereof~~  
12 ~~shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more~~  
13 ~~than fifty dollars (\$50.00) or imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days, or~~  
14 ~~shall be both fined and imprisoned.~~

15  
16 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 27-21-107, concerning the operation of all-  
17 terrain vehicles, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as  
18 follows:

19 (c) An operator of a utility task vehicle that is travelling on a  
20 public street or highway as authorized under § 27-21-111(a)(2) shall:

21 (1) Have a valid driver's license;

22 (2) Be subject to the restrictions stated in § 27-16-804;

23 (3) Register the utility task vehicle under § 27-14-701 et seq.  
24 and display the registration decal for the utility task vehicle on the  
25 driver's side roll bar of the utility task vehicle;

26 (4) Maintain insurance that meets the requirements for private  
27 passenger motor vehicles under § 23-89-201 et seq.;

28 (5) Carry proof of insurance covering the utility task vehicle  
29 as required under the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act, § 27-19-101 et  
30 seq. and § 27-22-101 et seq.; and

31 (6) Comply with the rules of the road as provided under § 27-51-  
32 101 et seq.

33  
34 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 27-21-108, concerning the equipment  
35 required for all-terrain vehicles, is amended to add an additional subsection  
36 to read as follows:

1       (c) A utility task vehicle operated on a public street or highway as  
2 authorized under § 27-21-111(a)(2) shall have the following functional  
3 equipment:

- 4               (1) At least two (2) headlamps;  
5               (2) Rear-facing turn signals;  
6               (3) At least one (1) brake light; and  
7               (4) Seatbelts.

8  
9       SECTION 8. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 21, Subchapter 1, is  
10 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

11       27-21-111. Operation of utility task vehicle on designated public  
12 streets and highways.

13       (a) A person may operate a utility task vehicle on a public street or  
14 highway of this state if:

15               (1) The utility task vehicle is being operated on the public  
16 street or highway under a condition or circumstance listed in § 27-21-106(a);  
17 or

18               (2) The following requirements are met:

19                       (A) The public street or highway has been designated as  
20 being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle under this section; and

21                       (B) The utility task vehicle and the operator of the  
22 utility task vehicle meet the requirements of this chapter.

23       (b)(1)(A) The governing body of the city in which a public street or  
24 highway is located may adopt an ordinance designating the public street or  
25 highway within the jurisdiction of the city as being open to the operation of  
26 a utility task vehicle.

27               (B) An ordinance adopted under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of  
28 this section:

29                       (i) May apply to all public streets and highways  
30 within the boundaries of the city; or

31                       (ii)(a) If the ordinance does not apply to all  
32 public streets and highways within the boundaries of the city, shall include  
33 a map depicting and a list identifying the particular public streets and  
34 highways that are designated as being open to the operation of a utility task  
35 vehicle.

36               (b) The map required under subdivision

1 (b)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be attached as an exhibit to the  
2 ordinance on file with the city clerk.

3 (2)(A) The county judge of the county in which a public street  
4 or highway is located may issue an executive order designating the public  
5 street or highway within the jurisdiction of the county as being open to the  
6 operation of a utility task vehicle.

7 (B) An executive order issued under subdivision (b)(2)(A)  
8 of this section:

9 (i) May apply to all public streets and highways  
10 within the boundaries of the county; or

11 (ii)(a) If the executive order does not apply to all  
12 public streets and highways within the boundaries of the county, shall have  
13 attached as an exhibit a map depicting and a list identifying the particular  
14 public streets and highways that are designated as being open to the  
15 operation of a utility task vehicle.

16 (b) The map required under subdivision  
17 (b)(2)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall be attached as an exhibit to the  
18 executive order on file with the county clerk.

19 (3) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a  
20 state highway that is located within an area that has been designated as  
21 being open under this subsection is open to the operation of a utility task  
22 vehicle.

23 (c) If a public street or highway is subject to the jurisdiction of  
24 both a city and a county, the city ordinance or the executive order of the  
25 county judge that is least restrictive to the operation of a utility task  
26 vehicle applies.

27 (d) The governing body of a city or the county judge of a county shall  
28 not designate a public street or highway within the jurisdiction of the city  
29 or county as being open to the operation of a utility task vehicle under this  
30 subsection if the public street or highway:

31 (A) Has a posted speed limit that exceeds fifty-five miles  
32 per hour (55 m.p.h.);

33 (B) Is a divided four-lane highway; or

34 (C) Is located in a state park.

35  
36 */s/Steimel*