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PCS for HB 949

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to operation of a golf cart; amending s. 316.212, F.S.; prohibiting a person from operating a golf cart on certain roadways unless he or she possesses a valid learner's driver license or valid driver license; removing the authority of a local governmental entity to enact a specified ordinance; providing a penalty; amending s. 316.2125, F.S.; removing the authority of a local governmental entity to enact a specified ordinance; amending ss. 316.2126 and 322.04, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

- Section 1. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 316.212, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (9) of that section is republished, to read:
- 316.212 Operation of golf carts on certain roadways.—The operation of a golf cart upon the public roads or streets of this state is prohibited except as provided herein:
- (7) A golf cart may not be operated on public roads or streets by <u>a any person who does not possess a valid learner's</u> driver license or valid driver license under the age of 14.
 - (8) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance

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relating to:

(a) Golf cart operation and equipment which is more restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon enactment of such ordinance, the local governmental entity shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents that such an ordinance exists and that it will be enforced within the local government's jurisdictional territory. An ordinance referred to in this section must apply only to an unlicensed driver.

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

- (a) 1. The local governmental entity determines, after considering the condition and current use of the sidewalks, the character of the surrounding community, and the locations of authorized golf cart crossings, that golf carts, bicycles, and pedestrians may safely share the sidewalk;
- $\underline{\text{(b)}_{2}}$. The local governmental entity consults with the Department of Transportation before adopting the ordinance;
- $\underline{\text{(c)}3}$. The ordinance restricts golf carts to a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour and permits such use on sidewalks adjacent to state highways only if the sidewalks are at least 8 feet wide;
 - (d) 4. The ordinance requires the golf carts to meet the

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equipment requirements in subsection (6). However, the ordinance may require additional equipment, including horns or other warning devices required by s. 316.271; and

- $\underline{\text{(e)}5.}$ The local governmental entity posts appropriate signs or otherwise informs residents that the ordinance exists and applies to such sidewalks.
- (9) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a moving violation for infractions of subsections (1)-(5) or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to subsection (8), or punishable pursuant to chapter 318 as a nonmoving violation for infractions of subsection (6), subsection (7), or a local ordinance corresponding thereto and enacted pursuant to subsection (8).
- Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 316.2125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 316.2125 Operation of golf carts within a retirement community.—
- (3) A local governmental entity may enact an ordinance regarding golf cart operation and equipment which is more restrictive than those enumerated in this section. Upon enactment of any such ordinance, the local governmental entity shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform the residents that such an ordinance exists and that it shall be enforced within the local government's jurisdictional territory. An

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ordinance referred to in this section must apply only to an unlicensed driver.

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

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

- (1) In addition to the powers granted by ss. 316.212 and 316.2125, municipalities are authorized to use golf carts and utility vehicles, as defined in s. 320.01, upon any state, county, or municipal roads located within the corporate limits of such municipalities, subject to the following conditions:
- (a) Golf carts and utility vehicles must comply with the operational and safety requirements in ss. 316.212 and 316.2125, and with any more restrictive ordinances enacted by the local governmental entity pursuant to s. 316.212(8), and shall be operated only by municipal employees for municipal purposes, including, but not limited to, police patrol, traffic enforcement, and inspection of public facilities.
- (b) In addition to the safety equipment required in s. 316.212(6) and any more restrictive safety equipment required by the local governmental entity pursuant to s. 316.212(8), such golf carts and utility vehicles must be equipped with sufficient lighting and turn signal equipment.
- Section 4. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 322.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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101	322.04 Persons exempt from obtaining driver license.—
102	(1) The following persons are exempt from obtaining a
103	driver license:
104	(e) Any person operating a golf cart, as defined in s.
105	320.01, which is operated in accordance with the provisions of
106	s. 316.212.
107	Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.