

HB 397 -- Utility Vehicles

Sponsor: Wells

This bill defines "utility vehicle" as any motorized vehicle manufactured and used exclusively for off-highway purposes which is 63 inches or less in width, has an unladen dry weight of 1,850 pounds or less, travels on four or six wheels, and is used primarily for landscaping, lawn care, or maintenance purposes.

No person can operate a utility vehicle upon the highways of this state except:

- (1) Governmental owned and operated vehicles for official use;
- (2) Vehicles operated for agricultural purposes or industrial on-premise purposes between the official sunrise and sunset;
- (3) Vehicles operated occasionally by handicapped persons for short distances only on the state secondary roads between the hours of sunrise and sunset;
- (4) Vehicles which have been issued special permits by a city to be used on highways within the city limits by licensed drivers. The city may charge a \$15 fee for the permit; and
- (5) Vehicles which have been issued special permits by a county to be used on highways within the county limits by licensed drivers. The county may charge a \$15 fee for the permit.

Individuals will be prohibited from operating a utility vehicle:

- (1) In a careless way so as to endanger the person or property of another;
- (2) While under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance;
- (3) Without a valid operator's or chauffeur's license;
- (4) Within any stream or river except by an operator who owns the property or has permission to be on the property on which the waterway flows through or when fording a low-water crossing;
- (5) At a speed of more than 30 miles per hour on a highway when permitted;
- (6) Carrying a passenger except for agricultural purposes or if the vehicle is designed with seating to carry more than

one passenger; and

(7) Without a securely fastened helmet if the operator is younger than 18 years of age.