

2014 -- H 7873

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER VEHICLES - LOW SPEED VEHICLES

Introduced By: Representatives Valencia, Martin, Mattiello, Nunes, and Guthrie

Date Introduced: March 04, 2014

Referred To: House Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 31-19.4 of the General Laws entitled "Prudence Island
2 Low Speed Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~CHAPTER 31-19.4~~

4 ~~Prudence Island Low Speed Vehicles~~

5 CHAPTER 31-19.4

6 LOW SPEED VEHICLES

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 31-19.4 of the General Laws entitled "Prudence Island Low Speed
8 Vehicles" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **31-19.4-2. Low speed vehicles authorized for use on state, city and town roadways. –**

10 (a) For the purposes of this chapter, a low speed vehicle means a self-propelled, electrically or gas
11 powered motor vehicle which: is designed to carry four (4) or fewer persons; is designed to be,
12 and is, operated at speeds of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less; and conforms to the
13 maximum safety equipment requirements as adopted in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
14 Standard No. 500, Low Speed vehicles (49 C.F.R. 571.500).

15 (b) Every city and town is hereby authorized, by ordinance, to allow the operation of low
16 speed vehicles upon state, city or town roadways within its jurisdiction, notwithstanding any law
17 or regulation to the contrary, if it meets the requirements of this section.

18 (c) The ordinance must specify the number of miles from a golf course club house (or
19 first tee, if no club house) within which the low speed vehicle is permitted to operate.

1 (d) Each person operating a low speed vehicle on a roadway of the state, a city or a town
2 shall possess a valid driver's license issued pursuant to § 31-10-1.

3 (e) Every operator of a low speed vehicle shall maintain financial responsibility on such
4 low speed vehicle if the low speed vehicle is to be operated upon the roadways of the state, a city,
5 or a town.

6 (f) Every person operating a low speed vehicle shall be granted all the rights and shall be
7 subject to all duties applicable to the driver of any motor vehicle except as to the special
8 regulations in this section and except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no
9 application.

10 (g) The operator of a low speed vehicle shall observe all traffic laws and local ordinances
11 regarding the rules of the road. A low speed vehicle shall not be operated on a street or a highway
12 with a posted speed limit greater than twenty-five (25) miles per hour. The provisions of this
13 subsection shall not prohibit a low speed vehicle from crossing a street or highway with a posted
14 speed limit greater than thirty-five (35) miles per hour.

15 (h) No person shall operate a low speed vehicle: (1) In any careless way as to endanger
16 the person or property of another; or (2) While under the influence of alcohol or any controlled
17 substance. Low speed vehicles shall be manufactured and comply with the standards of the
18 National Traffic Safety Administration Standards for low speed vehicles as set out in 49 C.F.R.
19 571.000, as amended.

20 (i) A low speed vehicle shall only be operated during the hours of 6:00 am through 6:00
21 pm.

22 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES AND OTHER VEHICLES - LOW SPEED VEHICLES

1 This act would permit cities and towns to authorize, by ordinance, the use of low speed
2 vehicles (vehicles with less than four (4) people and less than twenty-five (25) miles per hour) on
3 state, city or town roads and the ordinance must specify the number of miles from a golf course.
4 The hours of operation are from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the operator having a valid license,
5 financial responsibility and obedience to all traffic rules.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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