

2014 -- H 7873 SUBSTITUTE A

LC005010/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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:

~~CHAPTER 31-19.4~~

~~Prudence Island Low Speed Vehicles~~

CHAPTER 31-19.4

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 six (6) or fewer persons; is designed to be, and  
12 is, operated at speeds of twenty-five (25) miles per hour or less; and conforms to the maximum  
13 safety equipment requirements as adopted in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 500,  
14 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 which the low speed vehicle is  
19 permitted to operate.

1           (d) The ordinance must specify the identity of the roadways and locations where the low  
2 speed vehicle is permitted to operate.

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

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

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

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

17           (i) No person shall operate a low speed vehicle: (1) In any careless way as to endanger  
18 the person or property of another; or (2) While under the influence of alcohol or any controlled  
19 substance. Low speed vehicles shall be manufactured and comply with the standards of the  
20 National Traffic Safety Administration Standards for low speed vehicles as set out in 49 C.F.R.  
21 571.000, as amended.

22           (j) A low speed vehicle shall only be operated during the hours of 6:00 am through 6:00  
23 pm.

24           (k) All low speed vehicles authorized by local ordinance shall meet registration  
25 requirements of chapter 3 of title 31 and inspection requirements of chapter 38 of title 31.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would permit cities and towns to authorize, by ordinance, the use of low speed  
2 vehicles (vehicles with less than six (6) persons 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. The hours of  
4 operation are from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the operator having a valid license, financial  
5 responsibility and obedience to all traffic rules. The vehicle would also meet all state registration  
6 and inspection sticker requirements.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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