

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 173

Introduced by Assembly Member Holden
(Coauthor: Senator Liu)

January 22, 2015

An act to amend Section 1957 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to golf carts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 173, as introduced, Holden. Golf carts: City of La Verne.

Existing law authorizes a local agency to designate a highway under its jurisdiction, generally not to exceed one mile in length, that is located adjacent to, or provides access to, a golf course and related facilities, for the combined use of regular vehicular traffic and golf carts. Existing law also authorizes a city or county to adopt a golf cart transportation plan, under which separated golf cart lanes are to be developed and constructed in the plan area. Existing law, until January 1, 2016, provides an exemption from the separated golf cart lane requirement for street and highway segments in the City of La Verne that, among other requirements, have a speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less and are immediately adjacent to or surrounded by the campus of a university or a retirement community, if the city council makes specified findings.

This bill would delete the January 1, 2016, termination date applicable to the provisions relating to the City of La Verne, thereby making those provisions operative indefinitely.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1957 of the Streets and Highways Code
2 is amended to read:

3 1957. (a) If a city or county adopts a golf cart transportation
4 plan, it shall do both of the following:

5 (1) Establish minimum general design criteria for the
6 development, planning, and construction of separated golf cart
7 lanes, including, but not limited to, the design speed of the facility,
8 the space requirements of the golf cart, and roadway design criteria.

9 (2) In cooperation with the department, establish uniform
10 specifications and symbols for signs, markers, and traffic control
11 devices to control golf cart traffic; to warn of dangerous conditions,
12 obstacles, or hazards; to designate the right-of-way as between
13 golf carts, other vehicles, and bicycles; to state the nature and
14 destination of the golf cart lane; and to warn pedestrians, bicyclists,
15 and motorists of the presence of golf cart traffic.

16 (b) The construction of separated golf cart lanes, as required
17 under paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), does not apply in any of
18 the following locations:

19 (1) A residence district, as defined in Section 515 of the Vehicle
20 Code, located within any city containing a population of less than
21 50,000 residents with a geographical area of more than 20 square
22 miles in which city there are at least 20 golf courses, if the speed
23 limit in that district is 25 miles per hour or less.

24 (2) (A) The City of La Verne, on those street and highway
25 segments for which the city council makes a finding that the street
26 or highway segment is suitable to safely permit the use of regular
27 vehicular traffic and also the driving of golf carts, and makes a
28 separate finding that the construction of separated golf cart lanes
29 is infeasible given the physical space limitations of the street or
30 highway segment. In addition, these street or highway segments
31 shall meet all of the following requirements:

32 (i) Have speed limits of 25 miles per hour or less, as established
33 by an engineering and traffic survey.

34 (ii) Be immediately adjacent to or surrounded by the campus
35 of a university or a retirement community.

36 (iii) Provide a route between unconnected portions of the campus
37 of a university or the real property of a retirement community, or
38 provide direct access to an otherwise inaccessible portion of the

1 campus of a university or the real property of a retirement
2 community.

3 (iv) Be approved for purposes of this paragraph by the law
4 enforcement agency with primary traffic jurisdiction over the street
5 or highway segments.

6 (v) Accommodate golf carts without adversely impacting traffic
7 safety or the travel needs of commuters and other users, according
8 to a safety determination made by a traffic engineer.

9 (vi) Be limited to golf carts owned by the university or
10 retirement community and equipped with a windshield, headlights,
11 brake lights, and seatbelts.

12 (vii) Limit the use of golf carts to employees of the university
13 or retirement community acting within the scope and course of
14 employment for the maintenance or security of the university or
15 the retirement community.

16 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, “golf cart” includes, but is
17 not limited to, a utility style golf cart, used for transporting
18 maintenance equipment, and a shuttle style golf cart.

19 ~~(C) This paragraph shall become inoperative on January 1, 2016.~~