

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 4, 1997

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 18, 1997

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 1997

SENATE BILL

No. 525

Introduced by Senator Maddy

February 24, 1997

An act to amend Sections ~~1961~~ 1957, 1961, and 1967 of the Streets and Highways Code, and to amend Section 21716 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 525, as amended, Maddy. Vehicles: golf carts.

(1) Existing law authorizes, until January 1, 1998, any city or county to establish a golf cart transportation plan establishing golf cart lanes, as defined, for the travel of golf carts on roadways designated in the plan. The plan is required to include *construction of separated golf cart lanes* and certain criteria for seatbelts and a covered passenger compartment.

Existing law prohibits any person from operating a golf cart on any highway except in a speed zone of 25 miles per hour or less. Among other exceptions to that prohibition is, until January 1, 1998, a person operating a golf cart in a golf cart lane that is part of a golf cart transportation plan.

This bill would exempt the construction of separated golf cart lanes in a residence district located within any city, as described, if the speed limit in that district is 25 miles per hour or less.

This bill would authorize, rather than require, the plan to include requirements for seatbelts and a covered passenger compartment.

This bill would extend the repeal dates specified above to January 1, 2001.

Because violations of certain provisions that the bill would thus extend are infractions, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program by extending the duration of existing crimes.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

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

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

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

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

5 ~~(a)–~~

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

11 ~~(b)–~~

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



1 (b) *The construction of separated golf cart lanes, as*
2 *required under paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), does not*
3 *apply in a residence district, as defined in Section 515 of*
4 *the Vehicle Code, located within any city containing a*
5 *population of less than 50,000 residents with a*
6 *geographical area of more than 20 square miles in which*
7 *city there are at least 20 golf courses, if the speed limit in*
8 *that district is 25 miles per hour or less.*

9 SEC. 1.5. Section 1961 of the Streets and Highways
10 Code is amended to read:

11 1961. A city or county that adopts a golf cart
12 transportation plan shall adopt all of the following as part
13 of the plan:

14 (a) Minimum design criteria for golf carts, that may
15 include, but not be limited to, headlights, turn signals,
16 safety devices, mirrors, brake lights, windshields, and
17 other devices. The criteria may include requirements for
18 seatbelts and a covered passenger compartment.

19 (b) A permit process for golf carts that requires
20 permitted golf carts to meet minimum design criteria
21 adopted pursuant to subdivision (a). The permit process
22 may include, but not be limited to, permit posting, permit
23 renewal, operator education, and other related matters.

24 (c) Minimum safety criteria for golf cart operators,
25 including, but not limited to, requirements relating to
26 golf cart maintenance and golf cart safety. Operators shall
27 be required to possess a valid California driver's license
28 and to comply with the financial responsibility
29 requirements established pursuant to Chapter 1
30 (commencing with Section 16000) of Division 7.

31 (d) (1) Restrictions limiting the operation of golf
32 carts to separated golf cart lanes on those roadways
33 identified in the transportation plan, and allowing only
34 those golf carts that have been retrofitted with the safety
35 equipment specified in the plan to be operated on
36 separated golf cart lanes of approved roadways in the plan
37 area.

38 (2) Any person operating a golf cart in the plan area
39 in violation of this subdivision is guilty of an infraction



1 punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars
2 (\$100).

3 SEC. 2. Section 1967 of the Streets and Highways
4 Code is amended to read:

5 1967. This chapter shall remain in effect only until
6 January 1, 2001, and as of that date is repealed, unless a
7 later enacted statute, that is enacted on or before January
8 1, 2001, deletes or extends that date.

9 SEC. 3. Section 21716 of the Vehicle Code, as
10 amended by Section 12 of Chapter 334 of the Statutes of
11 1995, is amended to read:

12 21716. (a) Except as provided in Section 21115.1 and
13 Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 1950) of Division
14 2.5 of the Streets and Highways Code, no person shall
15 operate a golf cart on any highway except in a speed zone
16 of 25 miles per hour or less.

17 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until
18 January 1, 2001, and as of that date is repealed, unless a
19 later enacted statute, that is enacted on or before January
20 1, 2001, deletes or extends that date.

21 SEC. 4. Section 21716 of the Vehicle Code, as
22 amended by Section 13 of Chapter 334 of the Statutes of
23 1995, is amended to read:

24 21716. (a) Except as provided in Section 21115.1, no
25 person shall operate a golf cart on any highway except in
26 a speed zone of 25 miles per hour or less.

27 (b) This section shall become operative on January 1,
28 2001.

29 SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act
30 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
31 Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred
32 by a local agency or school district will be incurred
33 because this act creates a new crime or infraction,
34 eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
35 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section
36 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition
37 of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article
38 XIII B of the California Constitution.

39 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government
40 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act



1 shall become operative on the same date that the act
2 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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