Sec. 15.70. Traffic Laws -- Golf Carts.

(a) A municipality in Baldwin County may designate municipal streets or public roads within the municipality for use by golf carts. Before making that designation, the municipality shall first determine that golf carts may safely travel on or across the street or road. The municipality making the safety determination shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using the road or street. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on the designated street or road, the municipality shall post appropriate signs to indicate that the operation of golf carts is authorized.

(b) A municipality that authorizes the use of golf carts pursuant to subsection (a) shall inspect any golf cart that an owner wishes to use pursuant to subsection (a) to determine if the safety equipment required by subsection (e) is present on the golf cart and shall verify that the operator of the golf cart on a municipal street or public road is covered by a policy of liability insurance held by the owner of the golf cart. The liability limits for operation of the golf cart shall be the same as for operation of a motor vehicle. If the proper safety equipment is present and the golf cart is covered by liability insurance, the municipality shall issue a permit to the owner upon payment of a permit fee. The municipality may designate the appropriate department of the municipality to inspect and permit golf carts and may adopt rules for permitting golf carts, including providing for a permit fee.

(c) A municipality may not allow a golf cart to operate on a municipal street or public road where the posted speed limit exceeds 25 miles per hour.

(d) A municipality may limit the operation of a golf cart pursuant to this section to only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

(e) The golf cart shall be equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and a windshield.

(f) No person may operate a golf cart on a public street or road without a driver's license.

(g) A municipality may enact an ordinance regarding golf cart operation and equipment that is more restrictive than the restrictions enumerated in this section. Upon enactment, the municipality shall post appropriate signs or otherwise inform residents that the ordinance exists and will be enforced within the jurisdictional limits of the municipality.

(h) All golf carts shall be entitled to full use of a lane, and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any golf cart of the full use of a lane.
(i) The operator of a golf cart may not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

(j) A golf cart may not be operated between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

(k) Golf carts may not be operated two or more abreast in a single lane.

(l) The unauthorized operation of a golf cart on a municipal street or public road is a violation for which the municipality may collect a civil penalty of up to fifty dollars ($50).

(m) Notwithstanding any other provision of this amendment, a municipality may enact an ordinance regarding golf cart operation and equipment that is less restrictive than the restrictions enumerated in this amendment authorizing the use of golf carts for periods not to exceed 80 hours by the municipality or a civic organization in conjunction with civic events or events to raise funds, promote economic development, or similar purposes as authorized in the ordinance.

Credits
(Amendment 921.)

Ala. Const. Baldwin County § 15.70, AL CONST Baldwin County § 15.70
Current with amendments ratified through November 24, 2020.