

SENATE BILL NO. 771

March 07, 2024, Introduced by Senator HERTEL and referred to the Committee on Local Government.

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 657a (MCL 257.657a), as amended by 2018 PA 139.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 657a. (1) A village or city having a population of fewer
2 than ~~30,000~~ **65,000** individuals based ~~upon~~ **on** the ~~2010~~ **most recent**
3 **federal** decennial census may by resolution allow the operation of
4 golf carts on the streets of that village or city, subject to the
5 requirements of this section. A township having a population of

1 fewer than ~~30,000~~ **65,000** individuals based ~~upon~~ **on** the ~~2010~~ **most**
2 **recent federal** decennial census may by resolution, unless
3 disapproved by the county board of commissioners under subsection
4 (3), allow the operation of golf carts on the streets of that
5 township, subject to the requirements of this section.

6 (2) If a village, city, or township allows the operation of
7 golf carts on the streets of that village, city, or township, that
8 village, city, or township may require those golf carts and the
9 operators of those golf carts to be recorded on a list maintained
10 by that village, city, or township. A village, city, or township
11 shall not charge a fee for listing golf carts or the operators of
12 those golf carts.

13 (3) A county board of commissioners may, by resolution,
14 disapprove the operation of golf carts on the streets of a township
15 located within that county if the county board of commissioners
16 conducts a hearing and determines that 1 or more of the following
17 apply:

18 (a) The operation of golf carts on the streets of that
19 township would cause significant environmental damage.

20 (b) The operation of golf carts on the streets of that
21 township would cause a significant concern of public safety.

22 (4) The county board of commissioners shall provide public
23 notice of a hearing under subsection (3) at least 45 days before
24 the hearing is conducted. The county board of commissioners shall
25 also provide written notice of a hearing under subsection (3) to
26 the township at least 45 days before the hearing is conducted.

27 (5) ~~A person~~ **An individual** shall not operate a golf cart on
28 any street unless ~~he or she~~ **the individual** is at least 16 years old
29 and is licensed to operate a motor vehicle.

1 (6) The operator of a golf cart shall comply with the signal
2 requirements of section 648 that apply to the operation of a
3 vehicle.

4 (7) ~~A person~~**An individual** operating a golf cart ~~upon~~**on** a
5 roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as
6 practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or
7 a vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

8 (8) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (9), ~~a person~~
9 **an individual** shall not operate a golf cart on a state trunk line
10 highway. This subsection does not prohibit ~~a person~~**an individual**
11 from crossing a state trunk line highway when operating a golf cart
12 on a street of a village, city, or township, using the most direct
13 line of crossing.

14 (9) The legislative body of a local unit of government may
15 request the state transportation department to authorize the local
16 unit of government to adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation
17 of golf carts on a state trunk line highway, other than an
18 interstate highway, located within the local unit of government.
19 The request ~~shall~~**must** describe how the authorization would meet
20 the requirements of subsection (10). The state transportation
21 department shall solicit comment on the request from the local
22 units of government where the state trunk line highway is located.
23 The state transportation department shall consider comments
24 received on the request before making a decision on the request.
25 The state transportation department shall grant the request in
26 whole or in part or deny the request not more than 60 days after
27 the request is received. If the state transportation department
28 grants a request in whole or in part under this subsection, the
29 local unit of government that submitted the request may adopt an

1 ordinance authorizing the operation of golf carts on the state
2 trunk line highway that was the subject of the request. A county
3 may submit a request for authorization under this subsection on
4 behalf of 1 or more local units of government located within that
5 county if requested by those local units of government.

6 (10) The state transportation department shall authorize
7 operation of a golf cart under subsection (9) only on a state trunk
8 line highway that is not an interstate highway within a local unit
9 of government that has already adopted an ordinance under
10 subsection (1), that serves as a connector between portions of the
11 local unit of government that only connect through the state trunk
12 line highway, and that meets 1 or more of the following
13 requirements:

14 (a) Provides access to tourist attractions, food service
15 establishments, fuel, motels, or other services.

16 (b) Serves as a connector between 2 segments of the same
17 county road that run along discontinuous town lines.

18 (c) Includes a bridge or culvert that allows a golf cart to
19 cross a river, stream, wetland, or gully that is not crossed by a
20 street or county road on which golf carts are authorized to operate
21 under an ordinance adopted as provided in subsection (1).

22 (11) The state transportation department may permanently or
23 temporarily close a state trunk line highway to the operation of
24 golf carts otherwise authorized under subsection (9) after written
25 notice to the clerk of the local unit of government that requested
26 the authorization under subsection (9). The notice ~~shall~~**must** be in
27 writing and sent by first-class United States mail or personally
28 delivered not less than 30 days before the adoption of the rule or
29 order closing the state trunk line highway. The notice ~~shall~~**must**

1 set forth specific reasons for the closure. The state
2 transportation department is not required to develop a plan for an
3 alternate route for a state trunk line highway that it has
4 temporarily closed to the operation of golf carts.

5 (12) Where a usable and designated path for golf carts is
6 provided adjacent to a highway or street, ~~a person~~ **an individual**
7 operating a golf cart may, by local ordinance, be required to use
8 that path.

9 (13) ~~A person~~ **An individual** operating a golf cart shall not
10 pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic
11 moving in ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** direction in the case of a 2-
12 way street or on the left or right of traffic in the case of a 1-
13 way street, in an unoccupied lane.

14 (14) A golf cart ~~shall~~ **must** not be operated on a sidewalk
15 constructed for the use of pedestrians.

16 (15) A golf cart ~~shall~~ **must** be operated at a speed not to
17 exceed 15 miles per hour and ~~shall~~ **must** not be operated on a state
18 trunk line highway or a highway or street with a speed limit of
19 more than 30 miles per hour except to cross that state trunk line
20 highway or highway or street. A village, city, or township may, by
21 resolution, designate roads or classifications of roads for use by
22 golf carts under this subsection.

23 (16) A golf cart ~~shall~~ **must** not be operated on a state trunk
24 line highway or the streets of a city, village, or township during
25 the time period from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after
26 sunrise.

27 (17) ~~A person~~ **An individual** operating a golf cart or who is a
28 passenger in a golf cart is not required to wear a crash helmet.

29 (18) ~~A person~~ **An individual** operating a golf cart on a state

1 trunk line highway shall ride as near to the right side of the
2 roadway as practicable.

3 (19) This section does not apply to a police officer in the
4 performance of ~~his or her~~ **the police officer's** official duties.

5 (20) A golf cart operated on a street of a village, city, or
6 township under this section is not required to be registered under
7 this act for purposes of section 3101 of the insurance code of
8 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3101.

9 (21) As used in this section, "golf cart" means a vehicle
10 designed for transportation while playing the game of golf. A
11 village, city, or township may require a golf cart registered
12 within its jurisdiction to meet any or all of the following vehicle
13 safety requirements of a low-speed vehicle for approval under this
14 section:

15 (a) At least 2 headlamps that comply with section 685.

16 (b) At least 1 tail lamp that complies with section 686.

17 (c) At least 1 stop lamp and 1 lamp or mechanical signal
18 device that comply with sections 697 and 697b.

19 (d) At least 1 red reflector on each side of the golf cart as
20 far to the rear as practicable and 1 red reflector on the rear of
21 the golf cart as required for low-speed vehicles by 49 CFR 571.500.

22 (e) One exterior mirror mounted on the driver's side of the
23 golf cart and either 1 exterior mirror mounted on the passenger
24 side of the golf cart or 1 interior mirror as required for low-
25 speed vehicles by 49 CFR 571.500.

26 (f) Brakes and a parking brake that comply with section ~~704.~~
27 **705.**

28 (g) A horn that complies with section 706.

29 (h) A windshield that complies with section 708a.

1 (i) A manufacturer's identification number permanently affixed
2 to the frame of the golf cart.

3 (j) Safety belts that comply with section 710a and that are
4 used as required by section 710e.

5 (k) The crash helmet requirements applicable to low-speed
6 vehicles under section 658b.