

House Bill 3155

Sponsored by Representative CATE (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act allows ATVs on the roads if the ATV meets certain requirements and does not go on the freeway. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.1).

Permits a person to operate Class I, Class III and Class IV all-terrain vehicles on highways that are not interstate highways if the all-terrain vehicle meets vehicle equipment standards and the all-terrain vehicle is registered.

Directs the Department of Transportation to permit optional registration for Class I, Class III or Class IV all-terrain vehicles if the applicant provides satisfactory proof that the all-terrain vehicle meets equipment standards for highway use.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to all-terrain vehicles; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 803.310, 803.525, 806.020,
3 807.020, 815.110 and 821.190.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 821.150 to**
6 **821.292.**

7 **SECTION 2. A Class I, Class III or Class IV all-terrain vehicle may be lawfully operated**
8 **on a highway under the following circumstances:**

9 (1) **The all-terrain vehicle is registered under ORS 803.310; and**

10 (2) **The vehicle is operated on a highway that is not an interstate highway.**

11 **SECTION 3. ORS 821.190 is amended to read:**

12 821.190. (1) A person commits the offense of unlawful operation of an off-road vehicle on a
13 highway or railroad if the person operates a vehicle described in subsection (2) of this section in
14 any of the following described areas:

15 (a) On or across the paved portion, the shoulder, inside bank or slope of any highway, on or
16 across the median of any divided highway or on or across any portion of a highway right of way
17 under construction.

18 (b) On or across a railroad right of way.

19 (2) This section applies to:

20 (a) Snowmobiles.

21 (b) Class I all-terrain vehicles **that:**

22 **(A) Are not properly equipped for operation on a highway; and**

23 **(B) Are not registered under ORS 803.310.**

24 (c) Class II all-terrain vehicles that are not properly equipped for operation on a highway.

25 (d) Class III all-terrain vehicles **that:**

26 **(A) Are not properly equipped for operation on a highway; and**

27 **(B) Are not registered under ORS 803.310.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (e) Class IV all-terrain vehicles **that:**

2 **(A) Are not properly equipped for operation on a highway; and**

3 **(B) Are not registered under ORS 803.310.**

4 (3) Exemptions from this section are established under ORS 821.055 and 821.200.

5 **(4) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to Class I, Class III or Class IV all-terrain**
 6 **vehicles that are registered under ORS 803.310 and operate on highways that are not inter-**
 7 **state highways as permitted under section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

8 [(4)] (5) In addition to penalties provided by this section, the operator or owner of a snowmobile
 9 or Class I, Class II, Class III or Class IV all-terrain vehicle may be liable as provided under ORS
 10 821.310.

11 [(5)] (6) The offense described in this section, unlawful operation of an off-road vehicle on a
 12 highway or railroad, is a Class B traffic violation.

13 **SECTION 4.** ORS 803.310 is amended to read:

14 803.310. (1) The Department of Transportation, by rule, may provide for optional registration of
 15 vehicles that are exempt from vehicle registration requirements by ORS 803.305. The rules adopted
 16 for purposes of this subsection may provide for the registration of categories of vehicles, types of
 17 vehicles or otherwise. Upon request of an owner, the department may issue registration for a vehicle
 18 that meets the requirements of rules adopted under this section.

19 **(2) The department, by rule, shall provide for optional registration of Class I, Class III**
 20 **and Class IV all-terrain vehicles. Notwithstanding the requirement in ORS 803.350 (9) that a**
 21 **vehicle registered in this state be designed for operation on highways, an applicant may re-**
 22 **quest optional registration of a Class I, Class III or Class IV all-terrain vehicle if the appli-**
 23 **cant provides the department with satisfactory proof that the all-terrain vehicle meets**
 24 **equipment requirements imposed by statute or rule for the lawful operation of a vehicle on**
 25 **the highways. The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this subsection,**
 26 **including but not limited to specifying what constitutes satisfactory proof under this sub-**
 27 **section and the amount of the registration fee.**

28 [(2)] (3) A vehicle that is registered under this section is subject to the same provisions, condi-
 29 tions, fees and other requirements for registration as are other vehicles under the vehicle code.

30 **SECTION 5.** ORS 807.020, as amended by section 3, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended
 31 to read:

32 807.020. A person who is granted a driving privilege by this section may exercise the driving
 33 privilege described without violation of the requirements under ORS 807.010. A grant of driving
 34 privileges to operate a motor vehicle under this section is subject to suspension and revocation the
 35 same as other driving privileges granted under the vehicle code. This section is in addition to any
 36 exemptions from the vehicle code under ORS 801.026. The following persons are granted the de-
 37 scribed driving privileges:

38 (1) A person who is not a resident of this state or who has been a resident of this state for less
 39 than 30 days may operate a motor vehicle without an Oregon license or driver permit if the person
 40 holds a current out-of-state license issued to the person. For the purpose of this subsection, a person
 41 is a resident of this state if the person meets the residency requirements described in ORS 807.062.
 42 To qualify under this subsection, the person must have the out-of-state license or driver permit in
 43 the person's possession. A person is not granted driving privileges under this subsection:

44 (a) If the person is under the minimum age required to be eligible for driving privileges under
 45 ORS 807.060;

1 (b) During a period of suspension or revocation by this state or any other jurisdiction of driving
2 privileges or of the right to apply for a license or driver permit issued by this state or any other
3 jurisdiction; or

4 (c) That exceed the driving privileges granted to the person by the out-of-state license or driver
5 permit.

6 (2) A person who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a member of the
7 commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may operate a motor
8 vehicle without an Oregon license or driver permit if the person is operating a motor vehicle in the
9 course of the person's duties in the Armed Forces or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
10 ministration.

11 (3) A person without a license or driver permit may operate a road roller or road machinery
12 that is not required to be registered under the laws of this state.

13 (4) A person without a license or driver permit may temporarily operate, draw, move or propel
14 a farm tractor or implement of husbandry.

15 (5) A person without a license or driver permit may operate a motor vehicle to demonstrate
16 driving ability during the course of an examination administered under ORS 807.070 for the purpose
17 of qualifying for a license or driver permit. This subsection only applies when an authorized exam-
18 iner is in a seat beside the driver of the motor vehicle.

19 (6) Driving privileges for snowmobiles are exclusively as provided in ORS 821.150.

20 (7) Driving privileges for Class I all-terrain vehicles are exclusively as provided in ORS 821.170,
21 unless:

22 (a) A person is operating a Class I all-terrain vehicle on an all-terrain vehicle highway access
23 route that is designated by the Oregon Transportation Commission as open to all-terrain vehicles;
24 **or**

25 **(b) A person registers the Class I all-terrain vehicle under ORS 803.310 and is operating**
26 **the Class I all-terrain vehicle on a highway as permitted under section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

27 (8) Driving privileges for Class III all-terrain vehicles are exclusively as provided in ORS
28 821.172, unless:

29 (a) A person is operating a Class III all-terrain vehicle on an all-terrain vehicle highway access
30 route that is designated by the commission as open to all-terrain vehicles; **or**

31 **(b) A person registers the Class III all-terrain vehicle under ORS 803.310 and is operating**
32 **the Class III all-terrain vehicle on a highway as permitted under section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

33 (9) Driving privileges for Class IV all-terrain vehicles are exclusively as provided in ORS
34 821.176, unless:

35 (a) A person is operating a Class IV all-terrain vehicle on an all-terrain vehicle highway access
36 route that is designated by the commission as open to all-terrain vehicles; **or**

37 **(b) A person registers the Class IV all-terrain vehicle under ORS 803.310 and is operating**
38 **the Class IV all-terrain vehicle on a highway as permitted under section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

39 (10) A person without a license or driver permit may operate a golf cart in accordance with an
40 ordinance adopted under ORS 810.070.

41 (11) The spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty or the
42 spouse of a member of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
43 tration who is accompanying the member on assignment in this state may operate a motor vehicle
44 if the spouse has a current out-of-state license or driver permit issued to the spouse by another state
45 in the spouse's possession.

1 (12) A person who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty or a
 2 member of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may
 3 operate a motor vehicle if the person has a current out-of-state license or driver permit in the
 4 person's possession that is issued to the person by the person's state of domicile or by the Armed
 5 Forces of the United States in a foreign country. Driving privileges described under this subsection
 6 that are granted by the Armed Forces apply only for a period of 45 days from the time the person
 7 returns to the United States.

8 (13) A person who does not hold a motorcycle endorsement may operate a motorcycle if the
 9 person is:

10 (a) Within an enclosed cab;

11 (b) Operating a vehicle designed to travel with three wheels in contact with the ground at
 12 speeds of less than 15 miles per hour; or

13 (c) Operating an auticycle.

14 (14) Except as provided in subsection (15) of this section, a person may operate a bicycle without
 15 any grant of driving privileges.

16 (15) A person may operate the following without any grant of driving privileges if the person is
 17 16 years of age or older:

18 (a) A Class 1 electric assisted bicycle;

19 (b) A Class 2 electric assisted bicycle; or

20 (c) A Class 3 electric assisted bicycle.

21 (16) A person may operate a motor assisted scooter without a driver license or driver permit if
 22 the person is 16 years of age or older.

23 (17) A person who is not a resident of this state or who has been a resident of this state for less
 24 than 30 days may operate a motor vehicle without an Oregon license or driver permit if the person
 25 is at least 15 years of age and has in the person's possession a current out-of-state equivalent of a
 26 Class C instruction driver permit issued to the person. For the purpose of this subsection, a person
 27 is a resident of this state if the person meets the residency requirements described in ORS 807.062.
 28 A person operating a motor vehicle under authority of this subsection has the same privileges and
 29 is subject to the same restrictions as a person operating under the authority of a Class C instruction
 30 driver permit issued as provided in ORS 807.280.

31 (18) A person may operate an electric personal assistive mobility device without any grant of
 32 driving privileges if the person is 16 years of age or older.

33 **SECTION 6.** ORS 803.525 is amended to read:

34 803.525. The Department of Transportation shall issue two registration plates for every vehicle
 35 that is registered by the department except as otherwise provided in this section or ORS 803.530.
 36 Upon renewal or when otherwise provided under ORS 803.555, the department may issue stickers in
 37 lieu of or in addition to registration plates. The following shall be issued plates as described:

38 (1) Only one registration plate shall be issued for a moped, motorcycle, trailer, antique vehicle
 39 or vehicle of special interest registered by the department.

40 (2) Only one plate shall be issued for a camper **or Class I, Class III or Class IV all-terrain**
 41 **vehicle** that is registered. Stickers may be issued in lieu of a plate.

42 **SECTION 7.** ORS 806.020 is amended to read:

43 806.020. This section provides exemptions from the necessity for compliance with or proof of
 44 compliance with financial responsibility requirements in accident reports under ORS 811.725, when
 45 applying for vehicle registration under ORS 803.370 or 803.460 and for operating a vehicle under

1 ORS 806.010. The owner or operator of a vehicle is exempt, as provided by this section, from finan-
 2 cial responsibility requirements if the vehicle involved in the accident, sought to be registered or
 3 operated is any of the following:

- 4 (1) An antique vehicle issued permanent registration under ORS 805.010.
- 5 (2) A farm trailer.
- 6 (3) A farm tractor.
- 7 (4) An implement of husbandry.

8 (5) A vehicle of special interest that is maintained as a collector's item and used for exhibitions,
 9 parades, club activities and similar uses, but not used primarily for the transportation of persons
 10 or property.

11 (6) A snowmobile or a Class I, Class III or Class IV all-terrain vehicle, unless the vehicle is
 12 operating on an all-terrain vehicle highway access route that is designated by the Oregon Trans-
 13 portation Commission as open to all-terrain vehicles **or on a highway as permitted under section**
 14 **2 of this 2025 Act.**

- 15 (7) Any motor vehicle not operated on any highway or premises open to the public in this state.
- 16 (8) A motor assisted scooter.
- 17 (9) An electric personal assistive mobility device.

18 **SECTION 8.** ORS 815.110 is amended to read:

19 815.110. This section establishes requirements for ORS 815.115. The requirements under this
 20 section are in addition to any other requirements for lighting equipment provided by law. Except
 21 as specifically provided by an exemption under ORS 815.120, a person violates ORS 815.115 if the
 22 person does not comply with any of the following requirements:

23 (1) The following types of vehicles must display slow-moving vehicle emblems described under
 24 ORS 815.060:

25 (a) Vehicles or combinations of vehicles designed for customary use at speeds of less than 25
 26 miles per hour.

27 (b) Golf carts or similar vehicles when operated by a person with a disability.

28 (c) [*Class I, Class II and Class IV*] All-terrain vehicles operated on a highway under ORS
 29 821.191 (1) **or section 2 of this 2025 Act.**

30 (2) Slow-moving vehicle emblems must meet the requirements for such emblems established by
 31 the Department of Transportation by rule under ORS 815.060.

32 (3) Slow-moving vehicle emblems shall be displayed on the rear of the power unit. When a
 33 combination of vehicles is being operated in a manner that obscures the emblem mounted on the
 34 power unit, an additional emblem shall be displayed on the rear of the rearmost vehicle in the
 35 combination.