

HB506 INTRODUCED



1 HB506
2 U987CGX-1
3 By Representative Lovvorn
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 01-Apr-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, an off-road vehicle may not be operated upon the highways of this state.

This bill would provide that if an off-road vehicle is publicly owned by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, fire department, volunteer fire department, or rescue squad and meets certain requirements, the vehicle may be designated as an authorized emergency vehicle and may be operated on public streets and highways to perform emergency services.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to authorized emergency vehicles; to provide for the designation of an off-road vehicle as an authorized emergency vehicle; to provide requirements for such designation; to provide requirements for the use of such vehicle; and to provide for a limitation of liability for such designation and use of such vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For purposes of Title 32, Code of



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29 Alabama 1975, the chief administrator of any state, county, or
30 municipal law enforcement agency, fire department, volunteer
31 fire department, fire district, or rescue squad may designate
32 any publicly owned off-road vehicle, as defined under Section
33 32-8-2, Code of Alabama 1975, as an authorized emergency
34 vehicle, if the authorized emergency vehicle is within the
35 jurisdiction of the designating agency and the vehicle meets
36 all of the following requirements:

37 (1) The vehicle is equipped with headlights and brake
38 lights.

39 (2) The vehicle is equipped with shoulder harness
40 seatbelts for each passenger.

41 (3) The vehicle is marked with the state, county, or
42 municipal agency name.

43 (4) The vehicle is equipped with emergency lighting as
44 provided in Section 32-5A-115(c), Code of Alabama 1975.

45 (5) The back of the vehicle is marked with reflective,
46 highly visible chevrons designed to reflect headlights and
47 alert other drivers to its presence.

48 (b) An off-road vehicle that is designated as an
49 authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to this section may be
50 operated within the applicable jurisdiction on the streets and
51 highways of the state for official purposes only, including
52 emergency call responses and training operations. Such
53 vehicles may only be operated by authorized personnel of the
54 applicable state or local agency who have the requisite
55 training requirements as determined by the head of the agency.

56 (c) An off-road vehicle that is designated as an



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57 authorized emergency vehicle shall be covered under the
58 applicable agency's insurance policy.

59 (d) An off-road vehicle that is designated as an
60 authorized emergency vehicle is exempt from all other
61 licensing, equipment, and other requirements provided by law
62 for the operation of vehicles upon the streets and highways of
63 this state.

64 (e) Any individual who, acting in his or her official
65 capacity under this section, designates an off-road vehicle as
66 an authorized emergency vehicle is immune from civil liability
67 in any suit pursuant to Section 14 of the Constitution of
68 Alabama of 2022.

69 (f) The state and any political subdivision therein
70 shall be immune from civil liability in any suit pursuant to
71 Section 14 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, for any
72 liability arising from the operation of an off-road vehicle
73 designated as an authorized emergency vehicle under this
74 section.

75 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,
76 2025.