

SB171 INTRODUCED



1 SB171
2 9N9WBMP-1
3 By Senator Chambliss
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 13-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, navigable waters are public thoroughfares and have been held to be analogous to highways on land for purposes of travel.

This bill would prohibit an individual from operating a motor vehicle on land submerged below navigable waters, subject to certain exceptions.

This bill would also provide a criminal penalty for violations.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to navigable waters; to prohibit individuals from operating motor vehicles on land submerged below navigable waters; and to provide criminal penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "motor vehicle" means any vehicle that is self-propelled or that is drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, including an off-road vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, motor scooter, and motorized trail bike. The term does not include a



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29 vessel or other watercraft designed for transportation on
30 water.

31 (b) An individual may not operate a motor vehicle on
32 any land submerged below navigable waters in this state.

33 (c) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class C
34 misdemeanor.

35 (d) This section does not apply to either of the
36 following:

37 (1) The crossing of navigable waters via a motor
38 vehicle while remaining on land that the operator of the motor
39 vehicle owns or has permission to be upon.

40 (2) The operation of a motor vehicle pursuant to
41 written authorization from the Director of the State Lands
42 Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural
43 Resources.

44 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
45 1, 2025.