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

8 This bill would prohibit an individual from  
9 operating a motor vehicle on land submerged below  
10 navigable and non-navigable waters in this state,  
11 subject to certain exceptions.

12 This bill would also provide criminal penalties  
13 for violations.  
14  
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16 A BILL  
17 TO BE ENTITLED  
18 AN ACT  
19

20 Relating to navigable and non-navigable waters; to  
21 prohibit individuals from operating motor vehicles on land  
22 submerged below navigable and non-navigable waters in this  
23 state; and to provide criminal penalties for violations.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

25 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the term  
26 "motor vehicle" means any vehicle that is self-propelled or  
27 that is drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, including an  
28 off-road vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, motor



scooter, and motorized trail bike. The term does not include a vessel or other watercraft designed for transportation on water.

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

(c) An individual may not operate a motor vehicle on any land that is within the natural boundary of a creek, brook, branch, stream, or similar waterway.

(d) A person who violates subsection (b) or (c) shall be punished as follows:

(1) On a first violation, a Class C misdemeanor.

(2) On a second violation, a Class B misdemeanor.

(3) On a third and any subsequent violation, a Class A misdemeanor.

(e) This section does not apply to any of the following:

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

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

(3) Any utility engaged in providing retail or wholesale electric service.

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