DISCLAIMER

The South Carolina Legislative Council is offering access to the unannotated South Carolina Code of Laws on the Internet as a service to the public. The unannotated South Carolina Code on the General Assembly's website is now current through the 2014 session. The unannotated South Carolina Code, consisting only of Code text, numbering, and history may be copied from this website at the reader's expense and effort without need for permission.

The Legislative Council is unable to assist users of this service with legal questions. Also, legislative staff cannot respond to requests for legal advice or the application of the law to specific facts. Therefore, to understand and protect your legal rights, you should consult your own private lawyer regarding all legal questions.

While every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the unannotated South Carolina Code available on the South Carolina General Assembly's website, the unannotated South Carolina Code is not official, and the state agencies preparing this website and the General Assembly are not responsible for any errors or omissions which may occur in these files. Only the current published volumes of the South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated and any pertinent acts and joint resolutions contain the official version.

Please note that the Legislative Council is not able to respond to individual inquiries regarding research or the features, format, or use of this website. However, you may notify the Legislative Services Agency at LSA@scstatehouse.gov regarding any apparent errors or omissions in content of Code sections on this website, in which case LSA will relay the information to appropriate staff members of the South Carolina Legislative Council for investigation.

CHAPTER 2

Specialized Vehicles

ARTICLE 1

Low Speed Vehicles

**SECTION 56‑2‑100.** Conditions for operation on street or highway.

 (A) A low speed vehicle may be operated only on a highway for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less.

 (B) A low speed vehicle may cross a highway at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than thirty‑five miles an hour.

 (C) A low speed vehicle must meet the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 500 (Part 49 Section 571.500 of the Code of Federal Regulations) at all times when operated on any highway. A low speed vehicle that complies with the equipment requirements in 49 C.F.R. Section 571.500 complies with all equipment requirements of this title.

 (D) Nothing in this section prevents local governments from adopting more stringent local ordinances governing low speed vehicle operation.

 (E) A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of low speed vehicles on any street or highway if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

 (F) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low speed vehicles on any street or highway if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

 (G) A farm vehicle, as defined in Section 56‑1‑2070(C)(2), is not a low speed vehicle for the purposes of this article.

HISTORY: 2005 Act No. 170, Section 2, eff 6 months after approval by the Governor (approved June 7, 2005); 2012 Act No. 264, Section 10, eff June 18, 2012.

**SECTION 56‑2‑105.** Golf cart permit and the operation of a golf cart.

 (A) For the purposes of this section, “gated community” means any homeowners’ community with at least one access‑controlled ingress and egress which includes the presence of a guard house, a mechanical barrier, or another method of controlled conveyance.

 (B) An individual or business owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart may obtain a permit decal and registration from the Department of Motor Vehicles upon presenting proof of ownership and liability insurance for the golf cart and upon payment of a five dollar fee.

 (1) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated within four miles of the address on the registration certificate and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less.

 (2) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated within four miles of a point of ingress and egress to a gated community and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less.

 (3) During daylight hours only, within four miles of the registration holder’s address, and while traveling along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less, a permitted golf cart may cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than thirty‑five miles an hour.

 (4) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is thirty‑five miles an hour or less on an island not accessible by a bridge designed for use by automobiles.

 (C) A person operating a permitted golf cart must be at least sixteen years of age and hold a valid driver’s license. The operator of a permitted golf cart being operated on a highway or street must have in his possession:

 (1) the registration certificate issued by the department;

 (2) proof of liability insurance for the golf cart; and

 (3) his driver’s license.

 (D)(1) A golf cart permit must be replaced with a new permit every five years, or at the time the permit holder changes his address.

 (2) Golf cart owners holding golf cart permits on or before October 1, 2012, will have until September 30, 2015, to obtain a replacement permit.

 (E) A political subdivision may, on designated streets or roads within the political subdivision’s jurisdiction, reduce the area in which a permitted golf cart may operate from four miles to no less than two miles. However, a political subdivision may not reduce or otherwise amend the other restrictions placed on the operation of a permitted golf cart contained in this section.

 (F) The provisions of this section that restrict the use of a golf cart to certain streets, certain hours, and certain distances shall not apply to a golf cart used by a public safety agency in connection with the performance of its duties.

HISTORY: 2012 Act No. 177, Section 1, eff October 1, 2012.

**SECTION 56‑2‑110.** Driver’s license and registration card.

 A person operating a low speed vehicle must be at least sixteen years of age and shall hold a valid driver’s license. The operator of a low speed vehicle being operated on a highway must have in his possession:

 (1) the registration card issued by the department or the registration card issued by the state in which the low speed vehicle is registered; and

 (2) his driver’s license.

HISTORY: 2005 Act No. 170, Section 2, eff 6 months after approval by the Governor (approved June 7, 2005).

**SECTION 56‑2‑120.** Title requirement; title applications by nonresidents; license plates.

 (A) A low speed vehicle must be titled as specified in this title. The manufacturer’s or importer’s certificate of origin must identify clearly the vehicle as a low speed vehicle and must certify that the vehicle was manufactured in compliance with the equipment requirements for low speed vehicles in 49 C.F.R. Section 571.500. The State shall not issue vehicle identification numbers to homemade low speed vehicles, retrofitted golf carts, or any other similar vehicles, and these vehicles shall not qualify as low speed vehicles in this State.

 (B) If the vehicle is owned by a nonresident, but is subject to issuance of a certificate of title in this State, the application must also contain his:

 (1) full legal name, social security number, or, if the primary user does not have a social security number but has a passport, his passport number;

 (2) driver’s license number, whether the license was issued by this State or another jurisdiction;

 (3) date of birth;

 (4) bona fide principal residence address;

 (5) address in this State where the low speed vehicle will be housed and used; and

 (6) mailing address of the primary user of the vehicle. If the primary user is a firm, association, or corporation, the application must contain the business address and federal employer identification number of the primary user.

 (C) A low speed vehicle must be registered and licensed in the same fashion as passenger vehicles pursuant to this title and is subject to the same insurance requirements applicable to other motor vehicles under this title.

 (D) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall establish a special size and class of license plate for low speed vehicles that clearly identifies the vehicle as a low speed vehicle.

HISTORY: 2005 Act No. 170, Section 2, eff 6 months after approval by the Governor (approved June 7, 2005).

**SECTION 56‑2‑130.** Dealer licensing.

 A person engaged in the wholesale or retail sale of low speed vehicles must comply with the motor vehicle dealer licensing laws of this State as specified in this title.

HISTORY: 2005 Act No. 170, Section 2, eff 6 months after approval by the Governor (approved June 7, 2005).

ARTICLE 2

Motor Vehicle Registration and Property Tax

**SECTION 56‑2‑2740.** Refusal to renew license and registration for non‑payment of property tax; biennial plates; validation and revalidation decals; fees.

 (A) The Department of Motor Vehicles must refuse to renew the driver’s license and motor vehicle registration of a person who has not paid personal property taxes within the time limits prescribed in this chapter. A county treasurer or municipal clerk treasurer must forward notification to the department of persons violating the provisions of this chapter. Notification of individuals violating this chapter must be forwarded to the department in the time and manner determined by the department for the proper administration of this section.

 (B) The department shall issue biennial license plates and revalidation decals. The department may enter into contracts with persons, corporations, or governmental subdivisions to issue license plates and revalidation decals. The department, person, corporation, or governmental subdivision shall give a motor vehicle owner a license plate or revalidation decal for the tax year for which personal property taxes and biennial fees have been paid pursuant to Section 56‑3‑253.

 (C) All validation decals must be issued for a period not to exceed twelve months.

 (D) A person or corporation that issues license plates or revalidation decals pursuant to this section may charge a fee in excess of the fee charged by the department.

 (E) A governmental subdivision that issues license plates or revalidation decals pursuant to this section may charge a one‑dollar fee to defray the expenses associated with the issuance of license plates and revalidation decals.

 (F) The department shall supervise the provision of services contained in this section.

HISTORY: 1996 Act No. 459, Section 129; 1997 Act No. 40, Section 1; 2003 Act No. 51, Section 15.