

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 4299

A bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled  
"Natural resources and environmental protection act,"  
by amending section 81131 (MCL 324.81131), as amended by 2011 PA  
107.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 81131. (1) A municipality may pass an ordinance allowing  
2 a permanently disabled person to operate an ORV in that  
3 municipality.

4           (2) Subject to subsection (4), ~~the~~**A** county board of  
5 commissioners ~~of an eligible county~~ may adopt an ordinance  
6 authorizing the operation of ORVs on ~~the maintained portion of~~ 1 or  
7 more **COUNTY** roads located within the county. Not less than 45 days  
8 before a public hearing on the ordinance, the county clerk shall  
9 send notice of the public hearing, by certified mail, to the county  
10 road commission, **TO THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF EACH TOWNSHIP AND**

1 MUNICIPALITY LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY, TO THE STATE TRANSPORTATION  
2 DEPARTMENT IF THE ROAD INTERSECTS A HIGHWAY, and, if state  
3 forestland is located within the county, to the department. IF THE  
4 COUNTY IS A SOUTHERN COUNTY, BEFORE ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE UNDER  
5 THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SHALL CONSULT  
6 WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

7 (3) Subject to subsection (4), ~~the township board of a~~  
8 ~~township located in an eligible county~~ THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF A  
9 TOWNSHIP OR MUNICIPALITY may adopt an ordinance authorizing the  
10 operation of ORVs on the maintained portion of 1 or more COUNTY  
11 roads located within the township OR MUNICIPALITY, RESPECTIVELY.  
12 Not less than 28 days before a public hearing on the ordinance, the  
13 ~~township clerk~~ OF THE TOWNSHIP OR MUNICIPALITY shall send notice of  
14 the public hearing, by certified mail, to the county road  
15 commission, TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO THE  
16 LEGISLATIVE BODY OF EVERY OTHER TOWNSHIP AND MUNICIPALITY LOCATED  
17 WITHIN THE COUNTY, TO THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT IF THE  
18 ROAD INTERSECTS A HIGHWAY, and, if state forestland is located  
19 within the township OR MUNICIPALITY, to the department. IF THE  
20 TOWNSHIP OR MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED IN A SOUTHERN COUNTY, BEFORE  
21 ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE LEGISLATIVE BODY  
22 OF THE TOWNSHIP OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL CONSULT WITH THE BOARD OF  
23 COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS. This subsection does not apply to a  
24 township OR MUNICIPALITY until 1 year after the effective date of  
25 the amendatory act that first ~~defined eligible county so as to~~  
26 ~~include~~ AUTHORIZED the county in which that township OR  
27 MUNICIPALITY is located TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE UNDER SUBSECTION (2).

1           (4) The board of county road commissioners may close a **COUNTY**  
2 road to the operation of ORVs ~~under OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED PURSUANT~~  
3 **TO** subsection (2) or (3) to protect the environment or if ~~the~~ **SUCH**  
4 operation of ORVs ~~under subsection (2) or (3)~~ poses a particular  
5 and demonstrable threat to public safety. A county road commission  
6 shall not under this subsection close more than 30% of the linear  
7 miles of **COUNTY** roads located within the county to the operation of  
8 ORVs ~~under OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO~~ subsection (2) or (3).  
9 The **LEGISLATIVE BODY OF A** township ~~board of a township located in~~  
10 ~~an eligible county~~ **OR MUNICIPALITY** may adopt an ordinance to close  
11 a **COUNTY** road **LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OR MUNICIPALITY** to the  
12 operation of ORVs ~~under OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO~~ subsection  
13 (2). **THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF A VILLAGE MAY ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO**  
14 **CLOSE A COUNTY ROAD LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE TO THE OPERATION OF ORVS**  
15 **OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWNSHIP PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3).**

16           (5) The legislative body of a municipality ~~located in an~~  
17 ~~eligible county~~ may adopt an ordinance authorizing the operation of  
18 ORVs on ~~the maintained portion of~~ 1 or more streets within the  
19 municipality.

20           (6) **THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF A LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MAY**  
21 **REQUEST THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE LOCAL**  
22 **UNIT OF GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION**  
23 **OF ORVS ON A HIGHWAY, OTHER THAN AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY, LOCATED**  
24 **WITHIN THE LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT. THE REQUEST SHALL DESCRIBE HOW**  
25 **THE AUTHORIZATION WOULD MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (7).**  
26 **THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT SHALL SOLICIT COMMENT ON THE**  
27 **REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT, ORV CLUBS, AND LOCAL UNITS OF**

1 GOVERNMENT WHERE THE HIGHWAY IS LOCATED. THE STATE TRANSPORTATION  
2 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE REQUEST BEFORE  
3 MAKING A DECISION ON THE REQUEST. THE STATE TRANSPORTATION  
4 DEPARTMENT SHALL GRANT THE REQUEST IN WHOLE OR IN PART OR DENY THE  
5 REQUEST NOT MORE THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE REQUEST IS RECEIVED. IF THE  
6 STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT GRANTS A REQUEST IN WHOLE OR IN  
7 PART UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT THAT  
8 SUBMITTED THE REQUEST MAY ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE  
9 OPERATION OF ORVS ON THE HIGHWAY THAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE  
10 REQUEST. A COUNTY MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION UNDER THIS  
11 SUBSECTION ON BEHALF OF 1 OR MORE LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT LOCATED  
12 WITHIN THAT COUNTY IF REQUESTED BY THOSE LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT.  
13 BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2015, THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT MAY  
14 AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF ORVS ON A HIGHWAY AS PROVIDED IN THIS  
15 SUBSECTION AND SUBSECTION (7) ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVE AND  
16 WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM A LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT.

17 (7) THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT SHALL AUTHORIZE  
18 OPERATION OF AN ORV UNDER SUBSECTION (6) ONLY ON A HIGHWAY THAT IS  
19 NOT AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY AND THAT MEETS 1 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING  
20 REQUIREMENTS:

21 (A) SERVES AS A CONNECTOR BETWEEN ORV AREAS, ROUTES, OR TRAILS  
22 DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR AN ORV USER GROUP.

23 (B) PROVIDES ACCESS TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, FOOD SERVICE  
24 ESTABLISHMENTS, FUEL, MOTELS, OR OTHER SERVICES.

25 (C) SERVES AS A CONNECTOR BETWEEN 2 SEGMENTS OF THE SAME  
26 COUNTY ROAD THAT RUN ALONG DISCONTINUOUS TOWN LINES AND ON WHICH  
27 ORV USE IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OR (3).

1 (D) INCLUDES A BRIDGE OR CULVERT THAT ALLOWS AN ORV TO CROSS A  
2 RIVER, STREAM, WETLAND, OR GULLY THAT IS NOT CROSSED BY A STREET OR  
3 COUNTY ROAD ON WHICH ORVS ARE AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE UNDER  
4 SUBSECTION (2), (3), OR (5).

5 (8) THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT MAY CLOSE A HIGHWAY TO  
6 THE OPERATION OF ORVS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
7 (6) AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CLERK OF EACH LOCAL UNIT OF  
8 GOVERNMENT WHERE THE HIGHWAY IS LOCATED AND THE SENATE AND HOUSE  
9 COMMITTEES WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES,  
10 RECREATION, AND TRANSPORTATION. THE NOTICE SHALL BE IN WRITING AND  
11 SENT BY FIRST-CLASS UNITED STATES MAIL OR PERSONALLY DELIVERED NOT  
12 LESS THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE ADOPTION OF THE RULE OR ORDER CLOSING  
13 THE HIGHWAY. THE NOTICE SHALL SET FORTH SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THE  
14 CLOSURE.

15 (9) ~~(6)~~—Subject to subsection (4), if a local unit of  
16 government adopts an ordinance pursuant to subsection (2), (3), or  
17 (5), a person may operate an ORV with the flow of traffic on the  
18 far right of the maintained portion of the ~~road or street~~ OR COUNTY  
19 ROAD covered by the ordinance. IF THE OPERATION OF ORVS ON A  
20 SEGMENT OF HIGHWAY IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6), A  
21 PERSON MAY OPERATE AN ORV WITH THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC AS FOLLOWS:

22 (A) ON THE RIGHT SHOULDER OF THE HIGHWAY.

23 (B) IF THERE IS NOT A RIGHT SHOULDER OR THE RIGHT SHOULDER IS  
24 NOT OF ADEQUATE WIDTH, ON THE RIGHT UNMAINTAINED PORTION OF THE  
25 HIGHWAY.

26 (C) ON THE FAR RIGHT OF THE RIGHT TRAFFIC LANE OF THE HIGHWAY,  
27 IF NECESSARY TO CROSS A BRIDGE OR CULVERT AND IF THE OPERATOR

1 BRINGS THE ORV TO A COMPLETE STOP BEFORE ENTERING AND YIELDS THE  
2 RIGHT-OF-WAY TO AN APPROACHING VEHICLE ON THAT TRAFFIC LANE.

3 (10) A person shall not operate an ORV **AS AUTHORIZED** pursuant  
4 to subsection (2), (3), ~~or~~-(5), **OR (6)** at a speed greater than 25  
5 miles per hour or a lower posted ORV speed limit or in a manner  
6 that interferes with traffic on the ~~road or~~ street, **COUNTY ROAD, OR**  
7 **HIGHWAY.**

8 (11) ~~(7)~~—Unless the person possesses a license as defined in  
9 section 25 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.25, a  
10 person shall not operate an ORV **AS AUTHORIZED** pursuant to  
11 subsection (2), (3), ~~or~~-(5), **OR (6)** if the ORV is registered as a  
12 motor vehicle under chapter II of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949  
13 PA 300, MCL 257.201 to 257.259, and either is more than ~~60~~-65  
14 inches wide or has 3 wheels. ORVs operated **AS AUTHORIZED** pursuant  
15 to subsection (2), (3), ~~or~~-(5), **OR (6)** shall travel single file,  
16 except that an ORV may travel abreast of another ORV when it is  
17 overtaking and passing, or being overtaken and passed by, another  
18 ORV.

19 (12) ~~(8)~~—A person shall not operate an ORV **AS AUTHORIZED**  
20 pursuant to this section without displaying a lighted headlight and  
21 lighted taillight.

22 (13) ~~(9)~~—A person under 18 years of age shall not operate an  
23 ORV **AS AUTHORIZED** pursuant to this section unless the person is in  
24 possession of a valid driver license or under the direct  
25 supervision of a parent or guardian and the person has in his or  
26 her immediate possession an ORV safety certificate issued pursuant  
27 to this part or a comparable ORV safety certificate issued under

1 the authority of another state or a province of Canada. A person  
 2 under 12 years of age shall not operate an ORV **AS AUTHORIZED**  
 3 pursuant to this section. The requirements of this subsection are  
 4 in addition to any applicable requirements of section 81129.

5 (14) ~~(10)~~—A township that has authorized the operation of ORVs  
 6 on a **COUNTY** road under subsection (3) does not have a duty to  
 7 maintain the **COUNTY** road in a condition reasonably safe and  
 8 convenient for the operation of ORVs. **THIS STATE DOES NOT HAVE A**  
 9 **DUTY TO MAINTAIN A HIGHWAY IN A CONDITION REASONABLY SAFE AND**  
 10 **CONVENIENT FOR THE OPERATION OF ORVS.** A board of county road  
 11 commissioners, a county board of commissioners, or a municipality  
 12 does not have a duty to maintain a **COUNTY** road or street under its  
 13 jurisdiction in a condition reasonably safe and convenient for the  
 14 operation of ORVs, except the following ORVs:

- 15 (a) ORVs registered as motor vehicles as provided in the code.  
 16 (b) ORVs ~~permitted by an ordinance as provided in~~ **OPERATED AS**  
 17 **AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO** subsection (1).

18 (15) ~~(11) Beginning October 19, 1993, THIS STATE,~~ a board of  
 19 county road commissioners, a county board of commissioners, ~~and a~~  
 20 county, ~~are, and, beginning on April 25, 1995,~~ a municipality ~~is,~~  
 21 **ARE** immune from tort liability for injuries or damages sustained by  
 22 any person arising in any way out of the operation or use of an ORV  
 23 ~~on maintained or unmaintained roads, streets, shoulders, and~~  
 24 ~~rights of way over which the board of county road commissioners,~~  
 25 ~~the county board of commissioners, or the municipality has~~  
 26 ~~jurisdiction.~~ **THAT IS NOT REGISTERED UNDER THE CODE OR THAT IS**  
 27 **REGISTERED UNDER THE CODE BUT IS OPERATED AS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO**

1 **SUBSECTION (2), (3), (5), OR (6).** The immunity provided by this  
2 subsection does not apply to actions that constitute gross  
3 negligence. As used in this subsection, "gross negligence" means  
4 conduct so reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern  
5 for whether an injury results.

6 (16) ~~(12)~~—In a court action in this state, if competent  
7 evidence demonstrates that a vehicle that is permitted to operate  
8 on a road, ~~or~~ street, **OR HIGHWAY** pursuant to the code was in a  
9 collision **ON A ROADWAY** with an ORV ~~required to be operated on the~~  
10 ~~far right of the maintained portion of a road or street pursuant to~~  
11 ~~an ordinance adopted under subsection (2), (3), or (5),~~ **THAT IS NOT**  
12 **REGISTERED UNDER THE CODE,** the operator of the ORV shall be  
13 considered prima facie negligent.

14 (17) ~~(13)~~—A violation of an ordinance described in this  
15 section is a municipal civil infraction. The ordinance may provide  
16 for a ~~maximum~~ fine of not more than \$500.00 for a violation of the  
17 ordinance. In addition, the court shall order the defendant to pay  
18 the cost of repairing any damage to the environment, a ~~road or~~  
19 street, **COUNTY ROAD, OR HIGHWAY,** or public property ~~damaged~~ as a  
20 result of the violation.

21 (18) ~~(14)~~—The treasurer of the local unit of government shall  
22 deposit fines collected by that local unit of government under  
23 section 8379 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236,  
24 MCL 600.8379, and subsection ~~(13)~~—**(17)** and damages collected under  
25 subsection ~~(13)~~—**(17)** into a fund to be designated as the "ORV  
26 fund". The legislative body of the local unit of government shall  
27 appropriate revenue in the ORV fund as follows:

1 (a) Fifty percent to the county sheriff or police department  
 2 responsible for law enforcement in the local unit of government for  
 3 ORV enforcement and training.

4 (b) Fifty percent to the board of county road commissioners  
 5 or, in the case of a city or village, to the department responsible  
 6 for street maintenance in the city or village. ~~7~~ **HOWEVER, IF A FINE**  
 7 **WAS COLLECTED FOR A VIOLATION OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED UNDER**  
 8 **SUBSECTION (6), 50% OF THE FINE REVENUE SHALL BE APPROPRIATED TO**  
 9 **THE STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT. REVENUE APPROPRIATED UNDER**  
 10 **THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE USED** for repairing damage to ~~roads or~~  
 11 **streets, COUNTY ROADS, OR HIGHWAYS** and the environment that may  
 12 have been caused by ORVs and for posting signs indicating ORV speed  
 13 limits or indicating whether ~~roads or streets,~~ **COUNTY ROADS, OR**  
 14 **HIGHWAYS** are open or closed to the operation of ORVs under this  
 15 section.

16 ~~———— (15) As used in this section:~~

17 ~~———— (a) "Eligible county" means any of the following:~~

18 ~~———— (i) Oceana, Newaygo, Montcalm, Gratiot, Saginaw, Tuscola, or~~  
 19 ~~Sanilac county or a county lying north thereof, including all of~~  
 20 ~~the counties of the Upper Peninsula.~~

21 ~~———— (ii) St. Clair county.~~

22 ~~———— (b) "Local unit of government" means a county, township, or~~  
 23 ~~municipality.~~

24 ~~———— (c) "Municipality" means a city or village.~~

25 ~~———— (d) "Road" means a county primary road or county local road as~~  
 26 ~~described in section 5 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.655.~~

27 ~~———— (e) "Street" means a city or village major street or city or~~

1 ~~village local street as described in section 9 of 1951 PA 51, MCL~~  
2 ~~247.659.~~

3 (19) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES A RULE PROMULGATED OR ORDER ISSUED  
4 UNDER SUBSECTION (6) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A STATE CIVIL INFRACTION  
5 AND MAY BE ORDERED TO PAY A CIVIL FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$500.00. IN  
6 ADDITION, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE DEFENDANT TO PAY THE COST OF  
7 REPAIRING ANY DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT, A HIGHWAY, OR PUBLIC  
8 PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF THE VIOLATION.