



February 27, 2020

## **Registration and Title Bulletin # 004-20 Policy and Procedure**

**TO:** All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

**SUBJECT: Operation of Off-Highway Vehicles and Golf Carts and the Issuance of License Plates**

### **PURPOSE**

To provide guidance on the issuance of license plates to off-highway vehicles and golf carts due to House Bill (HB) 1548 enacted by the 86th Legislature.

### **DETAILS**

HB 1548 made several changes related to off-highway vehicles and golf carts. An off-highway vehicle is now defined as an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), recreational off-highway vehicle (ROV), utility vehicle (UTV), and sand rail. HB 1548 authorized issuance of a new Off-Highway Vehicle license plate for ATVs, ROVs, UTVs and sand rails and these vehicles must display an Off-Highway Vehicle license plate to be operated on roads. Off-highway vehicles are required to be titled, but continue to not be eligible for registration.

HB 1548 also specified that golf carts must display a Golf Cart license plate to operate on roads. The Golf Cart license plate was redesigned as a result of HB 1548, and the new design replaces the current design. Golf carts continue to not be eligible for title or registration.

Information on permissible operation of off-highway vehicles and golf carts on roads can be found in the Registration Manual, Chapter 12. Customers with questions about the permitted operation of off-highway vehicles and golf carts on roads should be referred to local law enforcement.

The new Off-Highway Vehicle license plate was made available with the Registration and Title System (RTS) Release 9.5, which went live in December 2019. Detailed processing instructions were provided in the RTS 9.5 Release Notes. Administrative rule revisions enabling issuance of the new Off-Highway Vehicle license plate have been adopted and will be effective March 1, 2020.

An initial supply of Off-Highway Vehicle and redesigned Golf Cart license plates will be distributed to your offices the week of March 2, 2020. You will be able to receive the new Off-Highway Vehicle and Golf Cart license plates into inventory upon receipt.

### **COUNTY ACTION**

You may see an increase in customers in your office requesting an Off-Highway Vehicle or Golf Cart license plate. Once you receive your inventory you will be able to issue the appropriate license plates to owners of these vehicles that request a license plate. Off-Highway Vehicle and

Golf Cart license plates can be obtained by customers upon request and do not require the completion of an application.

**CONTACT**

If you have any questions, please contact your local Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Regional Service Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah Kuntz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremiah Kuntz, Director  
Vehicle Titles and Registration Division

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