LEGAL UPDATE

Legal Services Division

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building Des Moines, Iowa 50319 515.281.3566

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND OFF-ROAD UTILITY VEHICLES ON HIGHWAYS INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 30, 2025

Legal Updates, prepared by the nonpartisan Legal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency, provide summaries of recent meetings, court decisions, Attorney General Opinions, regulatory actions, federal actions, and other occurrences of a legal nature that may be pertinent to the General Assembly's consideration of a topic and are intended for use primarily by legislators, legislative staff, and other persons interested in legislative matters. The reader is cautioned against using information contained in a legal update to draw conclusions as to the legality of a particular behavior or set of circumstances and should not be interpreted as advocating a particular course of action.

Co-chairpersons: Senator Dan Zumbach, Representative Megan Jones

Background. The All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Off-Road Utility Vehicles (UTVs) on Highways Interim Study Committee was established as an interim study committee pursuant to 2025 Iowa Acts, ch. 159. The committee is composed of six members of the General Assembly, including three members from each chamber. The committee is required to examine policy matters and recommend statutory changes relating to the operation of all-terrain vehicles and off-road utility vehicles on highways by January 12, 2026.

Procedural Business. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. with members participating in-person at the State Capitol Building. The committee elected Senator Zumbach and Representative Jones as permanent Co-chairpersons and adopted procedural rules. The Co-chairpersons made opening remarks.

Presentation — Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Mr. Larry Grant, State Safety Planner, Traffic and Safety Bureau, DOT, Lieutenant Wade Major, Iowa State Patrol, DPS, Ms. Jessica Flatt, Off-Highway Vehicles Program Manager, DNR, and Mr. Craig Cutts, Law Enforcement Bureau Chief, DNR, presented information to the committee regarding the operation of ATVs and UTVs on highways under current law, including crash and fatality statistics relating to the operation of ATVs and UTVs on highways, the enforcement of laws regulating the operation of ATVs and UTVs, and the registration of ATVs and UTVs. According to DOT statistics, 10 people were killed in ATV and UTV crashes in 2025 as of the date of the meeting. The DPS highlighted a cooperative approach between DOT, DPS, and DNR to educate the public on applicable ATV and UTV laws.

Committee Discussion. The committee asked questions to the presenters and discussed the operation of ATVs and UTVs on highways. The committee made no formal recommendations for statutory changes. The Co-chairpersons made closing remarks. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

LSA Staff Contacts: Tyler Heeren, 515.725.0480 or tyler.heeren@legis.iowa.gov
Natalie Sherman, 515.725.2299 or natalie.sherman@legis.iowa.gov

Internet Site: www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=91&session=1&groupID=42784