

186.077 Street-legal special purpose vehicles -- Requirements -- Prohibitions -- Registration, inspection, and renewal -- Administrative regulations. (Effective between July 15, 2026 and January 1, 2028)

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Local government" means a city, county, charter county government, urban-county government, consolidated local government, or unified local government;

(b) 1. "Special purpose vehicle" means an all-terrain vehicle, utility terrain vehicle, minitruck, pneumatic-tired military vehicle, or full-size special purpose-built vehicle, including a vehicle that is self-constructed or built by the original equipment manufacturer and a vehicle that has been modified.

2. "Special purpose vehicle" does not include a low-speed vehicle as defined in KRS 186.010; and

(c) 1. "Street-legal special purpose vehicle" means a special purpose vehicle that meets the requirements of this section and is equipped with all of the following:

a. One (1) or more headlamps;

b. One (1) or more tail lamps;

c. One (1) or more brake lamps;

d. A trail lamp or other lamp constructed and placed to illuminate the registration plate with a white light;

e. One (1) or more red reflectors on the rear of the vehicle;

f. An amber electric turn system, one (1) on each side of the front of the vehicle;

g. Amber or red electric turn signals on the rear of the vehicle;

h. A braking system, other than a parking brake;

i. A horn or other warning device;

j. A working muffler;

k. Rearview mirrors on the right and left side of the driver;

l. A windshield, unless the operator of the vehicle wears eye protection while operating the vehicle;

m. A speedometer, illuminated for nighttime operation;

n. A roll bar or roll cage;

o. For multi-passenger vehicles, a seatbelt assembly that conforms to the federal motor vehicle safety standard provided in 49 C.F.R. sec. 571.209 for each designated seating position; and

p. Tires that have at least two thirty-seconds (2/32) of an inch or greater tire tread.

2. "Street-legal special purpose vehicle" does not include a low-speed vehicle as defined in KRS 186.010 or a vehicle primarily used for farm

or agricultural activities.

- (2) A person shall not operate a street-legal special purpose vehicle on a highway if:
 - (a) The highway is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of a local government where the operation of special purpose vehicles has not been allowed by local ordinance;
 - (b) The highway is a controlled-access system, including but not limited to an interstate or parkway; or
 - (c) The United States Department of Agriculture prohibits special purpose vehicles where the highway is located.
- (3) Nothing in this section authorizes the operation of a street-legal special purpose vehicle in an area that is not open to motor vehicle use.
- (4) Street-legal special purpose vehicles are prohibited from traveling a distance greater than twenty (20) miles on a highway displaying centerline pavement markings.
- (5) Minitrucks shall not be operated as street-legal special purpose vehicles on a highway that has been constructed pursuant to a federal highway program.
- (6) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a street-legal special purpose vehicle shall:
 - (a) Be registered in accordance with KRS 186.020;
 - (b) Be insured by the owner or operator for the payment of tort liabilities in the same form and amounts as set forth in KRS 304.39-110 for motorcycles; and
 - (c) Comply with all other requirements in this chapter.
- (7) Upon registration of any street-legal special purpose vehicle under KRS 186.020, the county clerk shall issue the owner a motorcycle registration plate for the vehicle.
- (8) Street-legal special purpose vehicles shall have an inspection completed by a certified inspector as required by KRS 186A.115.
- (9) An applicant renewing his or her registration for a street-legal special purpose vehicle pursuant to KRS 186.020 shall be considered to have certified that the street-legal special purpose vehicle still meets all of the equipment requirements in subsection (1)(c)1. of this section.
- (10) The Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to implement this section.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 135, sec. 16, effective July 15, 2026. -- Created 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 89, sec. 1, effective June 27, 2025.