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AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AUTHORIZING NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC CARS, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO BE DRIVEN ON CERTAIN STREETS, ROADWAYS AND HIGHWAYS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is enacted to read:
"NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC CARS.--

A. As used in this section, "neighborhood electric car" means a four-wheeled electric motor vehicle that:

- (1) has a maximum speed of more than twenty miles per hour but less than twenty-five miles per hour;
- (2) complies with the federal requirements specified in 49 CFR 571.500; and
- (3) is equipped with head lamps, stop lamps, front and rear turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, a parking brake, at least one interior and one exterior rear view mirror, a windshield, windshield wipers, a speedometer, an odometer, braking for each wheel, seat belts and a vehicle identification number.

B. Except as provided in Subsection C or D of this section, a neighborhood electric car, properly registered pursuant to the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code, in compliance with the Mandatory Financial Responsibility Act and driven by an individual with a valid driver's license, may be operated on any street, roadway or highway under the jurisdiction of either the state or a local authority if the posted maximum speed limit is thirty-five miles per hour or less; provided, a neighborhood electric car may cross at an intersection or permitted crossing point at any street, roadway or highway that has a posted maximum speed limit higher than thirty-five miles per hour.

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1 C. A local authority may prohibit the operation of neighborhood 2 electric cars on any road under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the local 3 authority determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

4 D. The department of transportation may prohibit the operation of 5 neighborhood electric cars on any road under its jurisdiction if it determines that the 6 prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

7 E. Neighborhood electric cars are exempt from the following 8 provisions:

- 9 (1) the emblems or flashing lights requirement for slow- 10 moving vehicles in Section 66-3-887 NMSA 1978;
- 11 (2) any requirement for vehicle emission inspections adopted 12 by a local authority pursuant to Subsection C of Section 74-2-4 NMSA 1978; and
- 13 (3) the minimum motor displacement requirement of 14 Paragraph (2) of Subsection A of Section 15 66-7-405 NMSA 1978."

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