

BILL #17-22

To enhance security measures with additional late night transportation services

This bill, sponsored by FYLC Members Campbell, Gleason, Hamlet, Massongill, Prince, Smith, Tepedino, Upchurch and was introduced on the 5th of April, 2022.

Summary:

Due to an overwhelming demand for T-Link transportation around campus, and additional safety concerns on campus, this bill proposes an alternate form of accessible transportation during late night hours to enhance security resulting in a safer campus. This initiative will alleviate stress on T-Links and other university-provided transportation. In this bill, golf carts will be the transportation utilized to take students from one on-campus location to another on-campus location. Student-workers will operate these vehicles after going through a proper interview and training process. This bill will not only improve campus safety, but will also offer on-campus jobs to students.

Section 1. Short Title

- (1) This bill may be referred to and cited as the “Smokey’s Paw Patrol Act.”

Section 2. Definitions

- (1) The term “Smokey’s Paw Patrol” refers to the golf cart security transportation service to improve on-campus safety and supply accessible transit to students.
- (2) The term “UTPD” refers to the University of Tennessee Police Department.
- (3) The term “T-Link” refers to the bus system provided by University of Tennessee available to students on campus.
- (4) The term “ride-along” refers to a student passenger that helps the driver of the golf cart. The ride-along will be on the golf cart during the whole shift. Their job is to answer the phone, take

documentation, and help give directions to the driver. Note that the ride-along is also qualified as a driver.

Section 3. The University of Tennessee's Safety Issues

(1) Section 3, Subsection (1) will examine the alarming safety issues surrounding the University of Tennessee's crime patterns:

- (a) According to Title IX Campus¹ statistics, on-campus sexual misconduct cases and criminal offenses have increased since 2019.
- (b) According to Title IX Campus statistics from 2020, 25% of female students and 6.25% of male students are sexually assaulted at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.
- (c) According to the Past 60 Day Crime Log² from UTPD, the following statistics were collected regarding on-campus crime:
 - Fondling: 1 case
 - All kinds of assault: 28 cases
 - Harassment: 14 cases
 - Domestic assault/domestic violence: 6 cases
 - Rape: 6 cases
 - Stalking: 7 cases
- (d) According to the Past 60 Day Crime Log from UTPD, there have been 27 reported crimes that have occurred in parking garages and lots in the past 60 days.

Section 4. The Environmental Benefits of Electric Golf Carts

- (1) Section 4, Subsection (1) will examine the environmental benefits of electric golf carts and why they should be utilized in the effort to increase campus safety:
- (a) The golf carts run off of rechargeable batteries leaving no carbon footprint.
 - (b) The golf carts are silent leaving no noise pollution.

Section 5. Other Universities Currently Implementing a Golf Cart Service

- (1) Section 5, Subsection (1) will acknowledge other universities in the country who also use golf cart services for campus safety.

¹ <https://titleix.utk.edu/>

² <https://clery.utk.edu/crime-log/>

(a) University of Memphis, “Tiger Patrol”³

- According to the University of Memphis website, “Tiger Patrol is a personal escort program staffed by students to enhance the safety of persons on campus in the evening. There is no need to walk alone and we heavily encourage use of Tiger Patrol if you aren’t walking in a group. Normal hours for the Fall and Spring semesters are 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. seven days a week. To request an escort you should call 901.678.4663 (678.HOME). All students who are members of Tiger Patrol have had a criminal background check and are in good standing with the University. When they arrive by foot or golf cart, you should notice a multicolored lanyard holding an ID that says Tiger Patrol under the person’s name. After Tiger Patrol hours, Police Services provides escorts until dawn, however response time may be dependent upon officer availability. (Note: Use of the escort program as a “taxi” for convenience rather than safety is discouraged, e.g. multiple people wanting a ride because it is raining. Use in this manner detracts from our ability to provide other services. Please do NOT call for an escort after dawn, as our normal duties restrict us from providing service after that time.) If you are interested in becoming a member of Tiger Patrol or have a service suggestion please call 901.678.3848.”

(b) Vanderbilt University, “VandyRide”⁴

- According to the Vanderbilt University website, “The Vanderbilt University Department of Public Safety administers the VandyRide shuttle bus service at Vanderbilt University. Over the past year, Vanderbilt Student Government has been working in partnership with VUPS and the Dean of Students Office to enhance this program to improve the safety and convenience of the VandyRide Service. You may now view their location on your computer or mobile phone, and you can even set up text message alerts to let you know when a Van will be arriving at your stop. We hope you will enjoy this exciting new service! For complete information about the VandyRide service, including routes, stops, and times, please visit their website at

³ <https://www.memphis.edu/reslife/resources/tigerescort.php>

⁴ <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/issc/campus-and-community/public-and-campus-safety/>

[VandyRide](#). The hours of operation for the VandyRide are 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily. A walking escort may be requested, at any time, by calling the VUPS Communications Center at (615) 322-2745. We welcome student comments on the effectiveness and level of service provided by the VandyRide. A [VandyRide Comment Form](#) is available for your convenience. Be sure to check out the [MoveVU website](#) for other transportation, mobility, and commuter options.”

Section 6. The Fundamentals of the Golf Cart Service

- (1) This service will run seven days a week from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
 - (a) This service is not intended to drive groups of people. The golf carts are intended to increase accessibility for individuals who may not be comfortable walking alone at night to provide them a safe way to get to their on campus destinations.
- (2) This service will be run by student employees under the same stipulations that you would need to work any other campus job.
 - (a) This service would require students to be interviewed and participate in golf cart driving safety training. There would be two workers in each golf cart at all times; one would be the driver, while the other would be the ride-along. The driver would simply be in charge of operating the golf cart. The ride-along would answer the phone, take documentation, and help give directions to the driver. The driver and the ride-along can switch roles if need be.
 - (b) The workers would be provided with radios, safety vests, and golf carts that are marked to signify who they are.
 - (c) There would be proper documentation of the following information, either acquired electronically or physically:
 - (i) Worker on hand
 - (ii) Person who is being transported
 - (iii) The location of pick-up and of drop-off
 - (iv) The time stamp of the service call, worker dispatch, and arrival at location
- (3) The number/contact method for students would be listed on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville website, and eventually on the Tennessee App for easier access.

Section 7. Reforms

(1) Section 5, Subsection 1 will delineate reforms requested by the authors of this bill to the transportation services. Upon passage of this bill, we, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Senate, ask that:

- (a) The University of Tennessee-Knoxville's administration work closely with the Office of the Dean of Students to institute the Smokey's Paw Patrol initiative.
- (b) The Facility Services to supply the golf carts and to store them in the basement of the Student Union.

Appendix A. Action Taken

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE

VOTE: AYES: NAYS: ABSTAIN:

Seconded by

x _____ Date _____

Leah Gutzwiller, Senate Chair

ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

x _____ Date _____

Reginald Williams II, President of the Senate

ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

x _____ Date _____

Claire Donelan, SGA President

Appendix B. Sponsor(s) Contact Information

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