

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 307  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/19/19  
Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted  
5/28/20

Short Title: Mod. Utility Vehicle Classification. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 11, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS OF THE STATE TO REGULATE  
3 MODIFIED UTILITY VEHICLES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01(27) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:  
6 "g2. Modified utility vehicle. – A motor vehicle that is (i) designed for  
7 off-road use and (ii) manufactured with equipment required by  
8 G.S. 20-121.1(2). "Modified utility vehicle" does not include an  
9 all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this  
10 section, or a riding lawn mower."

11 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-87(12) reads as rewritten:

12 "(12) ~~Low-Speed Vehicles and Mini-Trucks.~~ Vehicles, Mini-Trucks, and Modified  
13 Utility Vehicles. – The fee for a low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~  
14 mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle is the same as the fee for private  
15 passenger vehicles of not more than 15 passengers. However, the fee for any  
16 low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified utility  
17 vehicle that is offered for rent shall be the same as the fee for a U-drive-it  
18 automobile."

19 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-121.1 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified**  
21 **utility vehicle on certain roadways.**

22 The operation of a low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified utility  
23 vehicle is authorized with the following restrictions:

- 24 (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the  
25 posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A modified utility vehicle may  
26 be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55  
27 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck may be operated only on streets and  
28 highways where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less. This does  
29 not prohibit a low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified  
30 utility vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road  
31 or street being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.  
32 (2) A low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified utility  
33 vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail  
34 lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields,



- 1 windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification  
2 number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working  
3 order.
- 4 (3) A low-speed ~~vehiele or mini-truck~~ vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility  
5 vehicle shall be registered and insured in accordance with G.S. 20-50 and  
6 G.S. 20-309.
- 7 (4) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed  
8 ~~vehicles or mini-trucks~~ vehicles, mini-trucks, or modified utility vehicles on  
9 any road or highway if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the  
10 interest of safety.
- 11 (5) Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. §  
12 571.500.
- 13 (6) Regardless of age, a mini-truck shall not qualify as an antique vehicle or  
14 historic vehicle as described in G.S. 20-79.4(b)."  
15 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2020.