

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  
Senate Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 6/10/20

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 (i) is manufactured for  
7 off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2), except a  
8 vehicle identification number, and (ii) has four wheels, an engine  
9 displacement greater than 2,400 cubic centimeters, an overall length  
10 of 142 inches or greater, an overall width of 58 inches or greater, an  
11 overall height of 70 inches or greater, a maximum speed capability of  
12 40 miles per hour or greater, and does not require an operator or  
13 passenger to straddle a seat. "Modified utility vehicle" does not include  
14 an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this  
15 section, or a riding lawn mower."

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

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

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

25 "**§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified**  
26 **utility vehicle on certain roadways.**

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

29 (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the  
30 posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck or modified utility  
31 vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed  
32 limit is 55 miles per hour or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed ~~vehicle~~  
33 ~~or mini-truck vehicle,~~ mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle from crossing a



- 1 road or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a  
2 posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- 3 (2) A low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck~~ vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility  
4 vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail  
5 lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields,  
6 windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification  
7 number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working  
8 order. If a modified utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification  
9 number, upon application by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle  
10 identification number to the modified utility vehicle prior to registration.
- 11 (3) A low-speed ~~vehicle or mini-truck~~ vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility  
12 vehicle shall be registered and insured in accordance with G.S. 20-50 and  
13 G.S. 20-309.
- 14 (4) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed  
15 ~~vehicles or mini-trucks~~ vehicles, mini-trucks, or modified utility vehicles on  
16 any road or highway if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the  
17 interest of safety.
- 18 (5) Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. §  
19 571.500.
- 20 (6) Regardless of age, a mini-truck shall not qualify as an antique vehicle or  
21 historic vehicle as described in G.S. 20-79.4(b)."  
22 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2020.