

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 241
Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 4/21/21
House Committee Substitute Favorable 5/11/21

Short Title: Modified Utility Vehicle Definition.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 15, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT AMENDING MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS REGULATING MODIFIED UTILITY
VEHICLES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-4.01(27) reads as rewritten:

"(27) Passenger Vehicles. –

...

g2. Modified utility vehicle. – A motor vehicle that (i) is manufactured or custom-built for off-road use with equipment required by ~~G.S. 20-121.1(2)~~, G.S. 20-121.1(2a), except a vehicle identification number, and (ii) has four wheels, ~~an engine displacement greater than 2,400 cubic centimeters~~, an overall length of ~~42-110~~ inches or greater, an overall width of 58 inches or greater, an overall height of ~~70-60~~ inches or greater, a maximum speed capability of 40 miles per hour or greater, and does not require an operator or passenger to straddle a seat. "Modified utility vehicle" does not include an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this section, or a riding lawn mower.

...."

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-121.1 reads as rewritten:

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

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

(1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck or modified utility vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less; provided, a modified utility vehicle may not be operated on any street or highway having four or more travel lanes unless the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This subdivision does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

(2) A low-speed vehicle, ~~mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle~~ or mini-truck shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps,



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1 reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield
2 wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such
3 required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. ~~If a modified~~
4 ~~utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application~~
5 ~~by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the~~
6 ~~modified utility vehicle prior to registration.~~

7 (2a) A modified utility vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn
8 signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors,
9 speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such
10 required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. If a modified
11 utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application
12 by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the
13 modified utility vehicle prior to registration. The operator of and all
14 passengers on a modified utility vehicle that is not equipped with a windshield
15 and windshield wipers shall wear a safety helmet, with a retention strap
16 properly secured, that complies with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard
17 (FMVSS) 218.

18 ...

19 (4) ~~The~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of any other subdivision of this section,
20 the Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed
21 vehicles, mini-trucks, or modified utility vehicles on any road or highway if it
22 determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

23"

24 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021.