

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 241

Short Title: Modify Utility Vehicle Definition. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jarvis, Sawyer, and Johnson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 15, 2021

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

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

6 "(27) Passenger Vehicles. –

7 ...

8 g2. Modified utility vehicle. – A motor vehicle that (i) is manufactured for  
9 off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2), except a  
10 vehicle identification number, and (ii) has four wheels, ~~an engine~~  
11 ~~displacement greater than 2,400 cubic centimeters~~, an overall length  
12 of ~~142-110~~ inches or greater, an overall width of 58 inches or greater,  
13 an overall height of 70 inches or greater, a maximum speed capability  
14 of 40 miles per hour or greater, and does not require an operator or  
15 passenger to straddle a seat. "Modified utility vehicle" does not include  
16 an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this  
17 section, or a riding lawn mower.

18 ...."

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

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

22 The operation of a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle is authorized  
23 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 mini-truck or modified utility  
26 vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed  
27 limit is 55 miles per hour or ~~less~~, but a modified utility vehicle shall not  
28 be operated on any street or highway having four or more lanes regardless of  
29 the posted speed limit. This subdivision does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle,  
30 mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle from crossing a road or street at an  
31 intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted speed limit of  
32 more than 35 miles per hour.
- 33 (2) A low-speed ~~vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle~~ or mini-truck  
34 shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps,  
35 reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield  
36 wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such



1 required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. ~~If a modified~~  
2 ~~utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application~~  
3 ~~by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the~~  
4 ~~modified utility vehicle prior to registration.~~  
5 (2a) A modified utility vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn  
6 signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors,  
7 speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such  
8 required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. If a modified  
9 utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application  
10 by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the  
11 modified utility vehicle prior to registration. The operator of and all  
12 passengers on a modified utility vehicle that is not equipped with a windshield  
13 and windshield wipers shall wear a safety helmet, with a retention strap  
14 properly secured, that complies with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard  
15 (FMVSS) 218.  
16 ...  
17 (4) ~~The~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of any other subdivision of this section,  
18 the Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed  
19 vehicles, mini-trucks, or modified utility vehicles on any road or highway if it  
20 determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.  
21 ...."  
22 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021.