

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 241  
Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 4/21/21

Short Title: Modified Utility Vehicle Definition.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

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

19 ...."

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

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

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

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

34 (2) A low-speed ~~vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle~~ or mini-truck  
35 shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps,  
36 reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield



wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. ~~If a modified utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the modified utility vehicle prior to registration.~~

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

...

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

...."

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