

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 814
Senate Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 9/21/21
Third Edition Engrossed 11/2/21

Short Title: Neighborhood Occupantless Vehicle.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE OPERATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD OCCUPANTLESS
3 VEHICLES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 20-4.01. Definitions.

7 Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this
8 Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

9 ...

10 (23a) Neighborhood occupantless vehicle. – A low-speed vehicle that is also a fully
11 autonomous vehicle, designed to be operated without an occupant and used to
12 transport cargo. A fully autonomous vehicle is defined in G.S. 20-400.

13 ~~(23a)~~(23b) Nonfunctional airbag. – A replacement airbag that meets any of the
14 following criteria:

15"

16 SECTION 2. Article 3 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
17 a new section to read:

18 "§ 20-121.2. Operation of a neighborhood occupantless vehicle on certain roadways;
19 regulations; equipment requirements.

20 (a) Authorization. – A neighborhood occupantless vehicle may operate on streets and
21 highways with the following restrictions:

22 (1) A neighborhood occupantless vehicle may be operated only on streets and
23 highways where the posted speed limit is 45 miles per hour or less.

24 (2) A neighborhood occupantless vehicle must be operated in the right-hand
25 travel lane or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the street
26 or highway, except when preparing for a left turn.

27 (3) On a highway with two travel lanes, a neighborhood occupantless vehicle
28 must turn off the roadway to a controlled stop as soon as practicable and when
29 it is safe to do so to allow faster moving vehicles to pass when passing is
30 unsafe because of traffic in the opposite direction or other conditions and there
31 are five or more vehicles immediately behind the neighborhood occupantless
32 vehicle.

33 (b) Equipment Exemptions. – A fully autonomous vehicle that is designed to be operated
34 exclusively and at all times by an automated driving system shall not be subject to any State law
35 or regulation requiring the installation, maintenance, or inspection of vehicle equipment that



1 relates to or supports motor vehicle operation by a human driver, but is not necessary for
2 operation by an automated driving system alone. "Automated driving system" is defined in
3 G.S. 20-400."

4 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2021.