

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  
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/26/21

Short Title: Modified Utility Vehicle Def/Use of Funds.

(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 AND DIRECTING THE USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO  
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

7 "(27) Passenger Vehicles. –

8 ...

9 g2. Modified utility vehicle. – A motor vehicle that (i) is manufactured or  
10 upfitted by a licensed manufacturer, dealer, or person or business  
11 otherwise engaged in vehicle manufacturing or modification for  
12 off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2),  
13 G.S. 20-121.1(2a), except a vehicle identification number, and (ii) has  
14 four wheels, an engine displacement greater than 2,400 cubic  
15 centimeters, an overall length of 142-110 inches or greater, an overall  
16 width of 58 inches or greater, an overall height of 70-60 inches or  
17 greater, a maximum speed capability of 40 miles per hour or greater,  
18 and does not require an operator or passenger to straddle a seat.  
19 "Modified utility vehicle" does not include an all-terrain vehicle, golf  
20 cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this section, or a riding lawn  
21 mower.

22 ...."

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

24 "§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle on  
25 certain roadways.

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

28 (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the  
29 posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck or modified utility  
30 vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed  
31 limit is 55 miles per hour or less; provided, a modified utility vehicle may  
32 not be operated on any street or highway having four or more travel lanes  
33 unless the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This subdivision  
34 does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle



1 from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street being  
 2 crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

3 (2) A low-speed ~~vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle~~ or mini-truck  
 4 shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps,  
 5 reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield  
 6 wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such  
 7 required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. ~~If a modified~~  
 8 ~~utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application~~  
 9 ~~by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the~~  
 10 ~~modified utility vehicle prior to registration.~~

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

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

27 ...."

28 **SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes,  
 29 G.S. 136-28.1, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Transportation,  
 30 Ferry Division, shall lease a passenger ferry vessel for operation between Hatteras and Ocracoke.  
 31 The term of the lease shall end no later than September 12, 2021. Of the funds appropriated in  
 32 S.L. 2020-91 from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation, the sum of nine  
 33 hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$943,000) in nonrecurring funds shall be used by the  
 34 Division to lease and operate the ferry.

35 **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective October 1, 2021. The  
 36 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.