

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

S

1

SENATE BILL 432*

Short Title: Mini-Truck Classification. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Ballard (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 1, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS OF THE STATE TO REGULATE
3 MINI-TRUCKS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-4.01(27) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:
6 "g1. Mini-truck. – A motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily
7 for the transportation of property and having four wheels, an engine
8 displacement of 660cc or less, an overall length of 130 inches or less,
9 an overall height of 78 inches or less, and an overall width of 60 inches
10 or less."

11 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-87(12) reads as rewritten:

12 "(12) ~~Low-Speed Vehicles.~~ Vehicles and Mini-Trucks. – The fee for a low-speed
13 vehicle or mini-truck is the same as the fee for private ~~passengers~~ passenger
14 vehicles of not more than 15 passengers. However, the fee for any low-speed
15 vehicle or mini-truck that is offered for rent shall be the same as the fee for a
16 U-drive-it automobile."

17 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-121.1 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed vehicle or mini-truck on certain roadways.**

19 The operation of a low-speed vehicle or mini-truck is authorized with the following
20 restrictions:

- 21 (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the
22 posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck may be operated
23 only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour
24 or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle or mini-truck from crossing
25 a road or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a
26 posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- 27 (2) A low-speed vehicle or mini-truck shall be equipped with headlamps, stop
28 lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview
29 mirrors, windshields, windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a
30 vehicle identification number. Any such required equipment shall be
31 maintained in proper working order.
- 32 (3) A low-speed vehicle or mini-truck shall be registered and insured in
33 accordance with G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-309.
- 34 (4) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed
35 vehicles or mini-trucks on any road or highway if it determines that the
36 prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.



- 1 (5) Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. §
2 571.500.
3 (6) Regardless of age, a mini-truck shall not qualify as an antique vehicle or
4 historic vehicle as described in G.S. 20-79.4(b)."
5 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.