

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 847
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/30/25

Short Title: Off-Road Motorcycle Registration Eligibility.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 10, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO CLARIFY OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY AS
MODIFIED UTILITY VEHICLES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 20-4.01. Definitions.

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

...

(27) Passenger Vehicles. –

...

g2. Modified utility vehicle. – A motor vehicle that ~~(i) is~~ meets the configurations enumerated in sub-sub-subdivisions 1. and 2. of this sub-subdivision. "Modified utility vehicle" does not include an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this section, or a riding lawn mower.

1. A motor vehicle that is manufactured or upfitted by a licensed manufacturer, dealer, or person or business otherwise engaged in vehicle manufacturing or modification for off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2a), except a vehicle identification number, and ~~(ii) (i)~~ has four wheels, an overall length of 110 inches or greater, an overall width of 58 inches or greater, an overall height of 60 inches or greater, ~~a (ii)~~ has a maximum speed capability of 40 miles per hour or greater, and ~~(iii)~~ does not require an operator or passenger to straddle a seat. "Modified utility vehicle" does not include an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, or utility vehicle, as defined in this section, or a riding lawn mower.

2. A motor vehicle that is manufactured or upfitted by a licensed manufacturer, dealer, or person or business otherwise engaged in vehicle manufacturing or modification for off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2b), except a vehicle identification number, and (i) has an engine displacement of 124cc or more, (ii) has a maximum speed capability of 40 miles per hour or greater, (iii) has a saddle for the use of the rider and



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passengers, and (iv) is designed to travel on two wheels in contact with the ground.

- h. Motorcycles. – Vehicles having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including autocycles, motor scooters, and motor-driven bicycles, but ~~excluding~~ excludes tractors and utility vehicles equipped with an additional form of device designed to transport property, three-wheeled vehicles while being used by law-enforcement agencies, electric assisted bicycles, and mopeds as defined in ~~sub-subdivision d1. of this subdivision.~~

...."

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

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

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

- (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck or modified utility vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less. This subdivision does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- (2) A low-speed vehicle or mini-truck shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, 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.
- (2a) A modified utility vehicle meeting the configuration specified in G.S. 20-4.01(27)g2.1. shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, a speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. ~~If a modified utility vehicle~~ the 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.
- (2b) A modified utility vehicle meeting the configuration specified in G.S. 20-4.01(27)g2.2. shall be equipped with equipment required by this Chapter for the highway use of motorcycles and a vehicle identification number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. If the vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the vehicle prior to registration. The operator of the vehicle must be licensed to operate a motorcycle as required by G.S. 20-7. The special provisions for motorcycles under G.S. 20-140.4 apply to the operator and passengers of the vehicle.

- (3) A low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle shall be registered and insured in accordance with G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-309.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. § 571.500.
- (6) Regardless of age, a mini-truck shall not qualify as an antique vehicle or historic vehicle as described in G.S. 20-79.4(b)."

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.