

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE BILL 1052
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/24/01
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/9/01

Short Title: Low-Speed Vehicles Defined.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 10, 2001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DEFINING AND REGULATING LOW-SPEED VEHICLES AND OTHERS.

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:

...

(12a) Golf Cart. – A vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

(12a)(12b) Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). – The value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a vehicle. The GVWR of a combination vehicle is the GVWR of the power unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units. When a vehicle is determined by an enforcement officer to be structurally altered from the manufacturer's original design, the license weight or the total weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles may be deemed as the GVWR for the purpose of enforcing this Chapter.

(12b)(12c) Hazardous Materials. – Materials designated as hazardous by the United States Secretary of Transportation under 49 U.S.C. § 1803.

...

(48c) Utility Vehicle. – Vehicle designed and manufactured for general maintenance, security, recreational, and landscaping purposes, but does not include vehicles designed and used primarily for the transportation of persons or property on a street or highway."

1 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-4.01(27) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision
2 to read:

3 "(27) Passenger Vehicles. –

4 …

5 h. Low-speed vehicle. A four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top
6 speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but less than 25 miles
7 per hour."

8 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-54 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(8) The vehicle is a golf cart or utility vehicle."

10 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-87 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

11 "(12) Low-Speed Vehicles. – The fee for a low-speed vehicle is the same as
12 the fee for private passenger vehicles of not more than 15 passengers."

13 **SECTION 5.** Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
14 new section to read:

15 "**§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed vehicle on certain roadways.**

16 The operation of a low-speed vehicle is authorized with the following restrictions:

- 17 (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways
18 where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This does not
19 prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a road or street at an
20 intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted speed
21 limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- 22 (2) A low-speed vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps,
23 turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes,
24 rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield wipers, speedometer, seat
25 belts, and a vehicle identification number.
- 26 (3) A low-speed vehicle shall be registered and insured in accordance with
27 G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-309.
- 28 (4) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-
29 speed vehicles on any road or highway if it determines that the
30 prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- 31 (5) Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49
32 C.F.R. § 571.500."

33 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.