

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 102
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/10/15
Third Edition Engrossed 3/16/15
Senate Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 5/6/15
Fifth Edition Engrossed 5/11/15

Short Title: Utility Vehicles/Move-Over Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 27, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL, AND MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO OPERATE UTILITY VEHICLES ON SOME PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AND TO MODIFY THE MOVE-OVER LAW TO INCLUDE VEHICLES BEING USED IN THE COLLECTION OF REFUSE, SOLID WASTE, OR RECYCLING.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 20-171.23 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-171.23. Motorized ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicles of law enforcement officers and fire, rescue, and emergency medical services permitted on certain highways.

(a) Law enforcement officers acting in the course and scope of their duties may operate motorized ~~all-terrain~~ vehicles, as defined in G.S. 14-159.3(b) and all-terrain vehicles owned or leased by the agency, or under the direct control of the incident commander, on: (i) public highways where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less; and (ii) nonfully controlled access highways with higher speeds for the purpose of traveling from a speed zone to an adjacent speed zone where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

(b) Fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel acting in the course and scope of their duties may operate motorized ~~all-terrain~~ vehicles, as defined in G.S. 14-159.3(b) all-terrain vehicles and owned or leased by fire, rescue, or emergency medical services departments, or under the direct control of the incident commander, on: (i) public highways where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less; and (ii) nonfully controlled access highways with higher speeds for the purpose of traveling from a speed zone to an adjacent speed zone where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

(c) This Part and all other State laws governing the operation of ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicles apply to the operation of ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicles authorized by this section.

(d) An ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle operated pursuant to this section shall be equipped with operable front and rear lights and a horn.

(e) A person operating an ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle pursuant to this section shall observe posted speed limits and shall not exceed the manufacturer's recommended speed for the vehicle.

(f) A person operating an ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle pursuant to this section shall carry an official identification card or badge.



1 (g) For purposes of this section, the term "motorized all-terrain vehicle" has the same
2 meaning as in G.S. 14-159.3, except that the term also includes utility vehicles, as defined in
3 this Chapter."

4 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-171.24 reads as rewritten:

5 "**§ 20-171.24. Motorized ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle use by employees of listed**
6 **municipalities and counties permitted on certain highways.**

7 (a) Municipal and county employees may operate motorized ~~all-terrain vehicles, as~~
8 ~~defined in G.S. 14-159.3(b) and~~all-terrain vehicles owned or leased by the ~~agency,~~agency on:
9 (i) public highways where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less; and (ii) nonfully
10 controlled access highways with higher speeds for the purpose of traveling from a speed zone
11 to an adjacent speed zone where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

12 (b) This Part and all other State laws governing the operation of ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain
13 vehicles apply to the operation of ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicles authorized by this section.

14 (c) An ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle operated pursuant to this section shall be equipped
15 with operable front and rear lights and a horn.

16 (d) A person operating an ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle pursuant to this section shall
17 observe posted speed limits and shall not exceed the manufacturer's recommended speed for the
18 vehicle.

19 (e) A person operating an ~~all-terrain~~all-terrain vehicle pursuant to this section shall
20 carry an official identification card or badge.

21 (f) ~~This section applies to the Towns of Ansonville, Atlantic Beach, Burgaw, Carolina~~
22 ~~Beach, Cramerton, Dallas, Davidson, Duck, Emerald Isle, Franklin, Indian Beach, Kill Devil~~
23 ~~Hills, Kitty Hawk, Kure Beach, Lowell, Manteo, Murphy, Nags Head, North Topsail Beach,~~
24 ~~Oakboro, Ocean Isle Beach, Pine Knoll Shores, Stanley, Surf City, Sylva, Topsail Beach,~~
25 ~~Williamston, Wrightsville Beach, and Yanceyville, the Cities of Albemarle, Belmont,~~
26 ~~Cherryville, Gastonia, Hamlet, Kings Mountain, Mount Holly, and Rockingham and the~~
27 ~~Counties of Cleveland, Currituck, Gaston, Surry, and Wilkes only.~~

28 (e1) For purposes of this section, the term "motorized all-terrain vehicle" has the same
29 meaning as in G.S. 14-159.3, except that the term also includes utility vehicles, as defined in
30 this Chapter."

31 **SECTION 2.1.** The Revisor of Statutes is directed to place a hyphen between the
32 words "all" and "terrain" wherever the phrase "all terrain" appears in the following statutes:
33 G.S. 14-134.2, G.S. 14-159.3, G.S. 20-171.23, G.S. 20-171.24, and G.S. 95-11.3.

34 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-157(f) reads as rewritten:

35 "(f) When an authorized emergency vehicle as described in subsection (a) of this section
36 or any public service vehicle is parked or standing within 12 feet of a roadway and is giving a
37 warning signal by appropriate light, the driver of every other approaching vehicle shall, as soon
38 as it is safe and when not otherwise directed by an individual lawfully directing traffic, do one
39 of the following:

40 (1) Move the vehicle into a lane that is not the lane nearest the parked or
41 standing authorized emergency vehicle or public service vehicle and
42 continue traveling in that lane until safely clear of the authorized emergency
43 vehicle. This paragraph applies only if the roadway has at least two lanes for
44 traffic proceeding in the direction of the approaching vehicle and if the
45 approaching vehicle may change lanes safely and without interfering with
46 any vehicular traffic.

47 (2) Slow the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for traffic conditions, and operate
48 the vehicle at a reduced speed and be prepared to stop until completely past
49 the authorized emergency vehicle or public service vehicle. This paragraph
50 applies only if the roadway has only one lane for traffic proceeding in the

1 direction of the approaching vehicle or if the approaching vehicle may not
2 change lanes safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.
3 For purposes of this section, "public service vehicle" means a vehicle that (i) is being used to
4 assist motorists or law enforcement officers with wrecked or disabled vehicles, ~~or~~ (ii) is a
5 ~~vehicle~~ being used to install, maintain, or restore utility service, including electric, cable,
6 telephone, communications, and gas, (iii) is being used in the collection of refuse, solid waste,
7 or recycling, or (iv) is a highway maintenance vehicle owned and operated by or contracted by
8 the State or a local ~~government,~~ government and is operating an amber-colored flashing light
9 authorized by G.S. 20-130.2. Violation of this subsection shall be negligence per se."
10 **SECTION 4.** Sections 1, 2, 2.1, and 4 of this act are effective when they become
11 law. Section 3 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to offenses committed
12 on or after that date.