



# HOUSE BILL 307: Mod. Utility Vehicle Classification.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources. If favorable, re-refer to Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	May 27, 2020
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Dixon, Brisson, Humphrey, R. Turner	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Howard Marsilio Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition H307-CSTQ-40		

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 307 would amend the motor vehicle laws of this State to create a definition for a modified utility vehicle, set the registration fee, and allow for the operation of a modified utility vehicle on roadways with certain restrictions.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under current law, a modified utility vehicle is not specifically defined as a category of motor vehicle under Chapter 20. Currently, a modified utility vehicle is designed for off-road use and may not be registered and operated on highways in this State.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This PCS would define a modified utility vehicle as a passenger vehicle, for the purposes of motor vehicle laws, as follows:

- o A motor vehicle that is:
  - designed for off-road use; and
  - manufactured 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.

The modified utility vehicle category would not include an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, utility vehicle, or a riding lawn mower.

The PCS would allow modified utility vehicles to be registered and specify that the registration fee for modified utility vehicles is the same as a private passenger vehicle of 15 passengers or less (\$36). This act would also require that modified utility vehicles that are offered for rent would pay the same registration fee as a U-drive-it automobile (\$66).

This act would place restrictions and requirements on the operation of a modified utility vehicle, which would include that:

- Modified utility vehicles are only allowed to operate on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55 mph or less.
- Modified utility vehicles are equipped with certain equipment similar to that of a low-speed vehicle or mini-truck.
- Modified utility vehicles are registered and insured.
- Modified utility vehicles abide by DOT roadway prohibitions in the interest of safety.

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



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Legislative Analysis  
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# House PCS 307

*Page 2*

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective October 1, 2020.