



HOUSE BILL 307: Mod. Utility Vehicle Classification.

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 10, 2020
Introduced by:	Reps. Dixon, Brisson, Humphrey, R. Turner	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio
Analysis of:	PCS to Third Edition H307-CSBG-65		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: 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 act would define a modified utility vehicle as a passenger vehicle, for the purposes of motor vehicle laws, as follows:

- A motor vehicle that:
 - Is manufactured for off-road use with equipment required by G.S. 20-121.1(2), except a vehicle identification number.
 - Has four wheels, an engine displacement greater than 2,400 cubic centimeters, an overall length of 142 inches or greater, an overall width of 58 inches or greater, an overall height of 70 inches or greater, a maximum speed capability of 40 miles per hour or greater, and does not require an operator or passenger to straddle a seat.

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

This act would require modified utility vehicle registration and specify that the registration fee for a modified utility vehicle is the same as a private passenger vehicle of 15 passengers or less (\$36). This act would also require that a modified utility vehicle that is 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. If a modified utility vehicle does not have a VIN, the DMV would be required to assign one upon owner application.
- Modified utility vehicles are registered and insured.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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- Modified utility vehicles abide by DOT roadway prohibitions in the interest of safety.

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