



HOUSE BILL 307: Mod. Utility Vehicle Classification.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	October 19, 2020
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2020-40		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2020-40 amends the motor vehicle laws of this State to create a definition for a modified utility vehicle, sets the registration fee, and allows for the operation of a modified utility vehicle on roadways with certain restrictions.*

This act became effective October 1, 2020.

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 defines 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 does not include an all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, utility vehicle, or a riding lawn mower.

This act requires modified utility vehicle registration and specifies 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 also requires 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 places restrictions and requirements on the operation of a modified utility vehicle, which includes 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.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

House Bill 307

Page 2

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective October 1, 2020.