



SENATE BILL 432: Mini-Truck Classification.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 10, 2019
Introduced by:	Sen. Ballard	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 432 would make various changes to the motor vehicle laws of this State to define and allow for the operation of mini-trucks on roadways with certain restrictions.

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, mini-trucks are not a specifically defined category of motor vehicle under Chapter 20.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of the bill would define a mini-truck as a passenger vehicle, for the purposes of motor vehicle laws, as:

- A motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property; and
 - having four wheels;
 - an engine displacement of 660cc or less;
 - an overall length of 130 inches or less;
 - an overall height of 78 inches or less; and
 - an overall width of 60 inches or less.

Section 2 of the bill would make the registration fee for mini-trucks the same as a private passenger vehicle of not more than 15 passengers (\$36). This section would also require that low-speed vehicles or mini-trucks offered for rent would pay the same registration fee as an U-drive it automobile (\$66).

Section 3 of the bill would place restrictions and requirements on the operation of mini-trucks, which would include the following:

- Mini-trucks would only be allowed to operate on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55 mph or less.
- Mini-trucks would need to be equipped with certain equipment similar to that of a low-speed vehicle, and that equipment must be maintained in proper working order.
- Mini-trucks would be required to be register and insured.
- Mini-trucks would be required to abide by NCDOT roadway prohibitions in the interest of safety.
- Mini-trucks would not be considered antique or historic vehicles regardless of age.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would become effective when it becomes law.

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