

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1257

Short Title: Medium-Speed Vehicles. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Samuelson, Cole, Barnhart, McLawhorn (Primary Sponsors); Allen, Burr, Daughtry, Dollar, Glazier, Guice, Gulley, Harrison, Hurley, Lucas, Martin, McComas, McGee, Mobley, Neumann, Pierce, Starnes, Stevens, Tarleton, and Wiley.

Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, Finance.

April 9, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE OPERATION OF MEDIUM-SPEED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC  
3 STREETS OR HIGHWAYS WITH POSTED SPEED LIMITS LESS THAN  
4 THIRTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR LAWFUL.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-4.01(27) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to  
7 read:

8 "i. Medium-speed vehicle. – A self-propelled electrically powered  
9 four-wheeled motor vehicle equipped with a roll bar or  
10 crush-resistant body design, which can attain a speed of 30 miles per  
11 hour but less than 35 miles per hour in one mile."

12 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-121.1 reads as rewritten:

13 "§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed or medium-speed vehicle on certain roadways.

14 The operation of a low-speed or medium-speed vehicle is authorized with the following  
15 restrictions:

- 16 (1) A low-speed or medium-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and  
17 highways where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This  
18 does not prohibit a low-speed or medium-speed vehicle from crossing a road  
19 or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted  
20 speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- 21 (2) A low-speed or medium-speed vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps,  
22 stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes,  
23 rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts,  
24 and a vehicle identification number.
- 25 (3) A low-speed or medium-speed vehicle shall be registered and insured in  
26 accordance with G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-309.
- 27 (4) The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed  
28 or medium-speed vehicles on any road or highway if it determines that the  
29 prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- 30 (5) Low-speed or medium-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards  
31 in 49 C.F.R. § 571.500."

32 SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.

