

House Bill 1389

By: Representatives Powell of the 23rd, Parham of the 122nd, Hanner of the 159th, Twiggs of the 8th and Greene of the 158th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and
2 traffic, so as to regulate low-speed vehicles; to redefine a term; to define a term; to change
3 certain provisions relating to registration of motor vehicles not manufactured to comply with
4 federal emission and safety standards applicable to new motor vehicles; to change certain
5 provisions relating to requirement of compliance with federal safety standards; to provide
6 special uniform rules of the road for low-speed vehicles; to provide equipment requirements
7 for low-speed vehicles; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
12 amended in Code Section 40-1-1, relating to definitions, by striking paragraph (41) and
13 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 "(41) 'Passenger car' means every motor vehicle, except motorcycles ~~and~~ motor driven
15 cycles, and low-speed vehicles, designed for carrying ten passengers or less and used for
16 the transportation of persons."

17 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

18 Said title is further amended in said Code Section 40-1-1 by inserting a new paragraph to
19 read as follows:

20 "(25.1) 'Low-speed vehicle' means any four-wheeled electric vehicle whose top speed
21 attainable in one mile is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per
22 hour on a paved level surface and which is manufactured in compliance with those
23 federal motor vehicle safety standards for low-speed vehicles set forth in 49 C.F.R.
24 Section 571.500 and in effect on January 1, 2001."

1 "Part 5

2 40-6-360.

3 Every person operating a low-speed vehicle shall be granted all the rights and shall be
4 subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under this chapter
5 except as to special regulations in this part and except as to those provisions of this chapter
6 which by their nature can have no application.

7 40-6-361.

8 (a) All low-speed vehicles are entitled to full use of a lane, and no motor vehicle shall be
9 driven in such a manner as to deprive any low-speed vehicle of the full use of a lane.

10 (b) The operator of a low-speed vehicle shall not overtake and pass in the same lane
11 occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

12 (c) No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle between lanes of traffic or between
13 adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

14 (d) Low-speed vehicles shall not be operated two or more abreast in a single lane.

15 40-6-362.

16 (a) Low-speed vehicles may be operated on any highway where the posted speed limit
17 does not exceed 35 miles per hour. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code
18 section, the operator of a low-speed vehicle shall not operate such vehicle on any highway
19 where the posted speed limit exceeds 35 miles per hour.

20 (b) The operator of a low-speed vehicle may cross a highway with a speed limit exceeding
21 35 miles per hour if such crossing begins and ends on a highway with a speed limit not
22 exceeding 35 miles per hour."

23 **SECTION 6.**

24 Said title is further amended in Article 1 of Chapter 8, relating to equipment of motor
25 vehicles generally, by adding a new Part 7 to read as follows:

26 "Part 7

27 40-8-120.

28 Low-speed vehicles shall comply with those federal motor vehicle safety standards for
29 low-speed vehicles set forth in 49 C.F.R. Section 571.500 and in effect on January 1, 2001,
30 and shall be subject to no other safety equipment requirements."

1 **SECTION 7.**

2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
3 without such approval.

4 **SECTION 8.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.