

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to HB 1239:

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 provide for the operation of miniature on-road vehicles on certain highways;
3 to provide for standards for registration of such vehicles; to provide for issuance of license
4 plates for miniature on-road vehicles; to provide for an annual licensing fee for such vehicles;
5 to provide for issuance of certificates of title by the Department of Revenue for such
6 vehicles; to provide for equipment and operating standards for such vehicles; to provide local
7 authorities with the power to prohibit operation of miniature on-road vehicles; to require
8 posting of notice of such prohibition upon highways; to revise and provide for a definition;
9 to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
10 for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
14 amended in Code Section 40-1-1, relating to definitions, by revising paragraph (27.1) and
15 adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

H. B. 1239 (SUB)

16 "(27.1) 'Miniature on-road vehicle' means any motorized vehicle designed and
17 manufactured for use upon roadways in another country that has been imported into the
18 United States with a valid certificate of title or registration from the exporting country
19 and in compliance with all federal importation requirements and which has the following
20 characteristics:

- 21 (A) Has the capability to transport persons;
22 (B) Operates between 25 miles per hour (40.2 kilometers per hour) and 65 miles per
23 hour (104.6 kilometers per hour);
24 (C) Has an overall width of 80 inches (2,030 millimeters) or less, exclusive of
25 accessories or attachments;
26 (D) Is designed to travel on four or more wheels;
27 (E) Uses a steering wheel for steering control;
28 (F) Contains a nonstraddle seat;
29 (G) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 4,000 pounds (1,814 kilograms); and
30 (H) Is not designed or manufactured as a golf cart, all-terrain vehicle, or multipurpose
31 off-highway vehicle.

32 (27.2) 'Minimal risk condition' means a low-risk operating mode in which a fully
33 autonomous vehicle operating without a human driver achieves a reasonably safe state,
34 such as bringing the vehicle to a complete stop, upon experiencing a failure of the
35 vehicle's automated driving system that renders the vehicle unable to perform the entire
36 dynamic driving task."

37 **SECTION 2.**

38 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-27, relating to registration of motor
39 vehicles not manufactured to comply with federal emission and safety standards, certificate
40 of registration for an assembled motor vehicle or motorcycle or a converted motor vehicle,
41 and former military motor vehicles, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

42 "(e) The provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply to applications
43 for certificates of registration for former military motor vehicles that are less than 25 years
44 old and manufactured for the United States military, or multipurpose off-highway vehicles
45 manufactured after January 1, 2000, or miniature on-road vehicles manufactured more than
46 25 years prior to application; provided, however, that the exception provided by this
47 subsection shall be applicable to miniature on-road vehicles manufactured less than 25
48 years prior to application that have been modified by an importer registered with the United
49 States Department of Transportation to comply with applicable federal motor vehicle safety
50 standards issued pursuant to 49 U.S.C.A. Section 30101, et seq., and certified by such
51 importer as such."

52

SECTION 3.

53 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-31, relating to license plate design and
54 revalidation and county decals, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

55 "(b) License plates issued pursuant to this chapter shall be at least six inches wide and not
56 less than 12 inches in length, except that motorcycle license plates shall be at least four
57 inches wide and not less than seven inches in length and license plates for low-speed
58 vehicles, miniature on-road vehicles, and multipurpose off-highway vehicles shall be a size
59 determined by the commissioner. All license plates shall show in boldface characters the
60 month and year of expiration, the serial number, and either the full name or the
61 abbreviation of the name of the state, shall designate the county from which the license
62 plate was issued unless specifically stated otherwise in this chapter, and shall show such
63 other distinctive markings as in the judgment of the commissioner may be deemed
64 advisable, so as to indicate the class of weight of the vehicle for which the license plate was
65 issued. Any license plate for a low-speed vehicle, miniature on-road vehicle, or
66 multipurpose off-highway vehicle shall designate the vehicle as such. Such plates may also
67 bear such figures, characters, letters, or combinations thereof as in the judgment of the

68 commissioner will to the best advantage advertise, popularize, and otherwise promote
 69 Georgia as the 'Peach State.' Except for license plates issued pursuant to Article 2B of this
 70 chapter, any license plate issued pursuant to this chapter shall be of such strength and
 71 quality that the plate shall provide a minimum service period of at least five years. The
 72 commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 13
 73 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,' for the design and issuance of new
 74 license plates and to implement the other provisions of this Code section."

75 **SECTION 4.**

76 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-33, relating to issuance of license plates
 77 and decals, transfer of registration to a digital license plate, compensation of tag agents, and
 78 required identification, by revising paragraph (2.1) of subsection (a) as follows:

79 "(2.1) The commissioner may provide for the issuance of a temporary operating permit
 80 for any ~~multipurpose off-highway~~ miniature on-road vehicle, to be displayed until such
 81 time as a license plate of the design required by Code Section 40-2-31 has been issued
 82 to the registrant as a replacement for such temporary operating permit; provided,
 83 however, that any such temporary operating permit shall designate the ~~multipurpose~~
 84 ~~off-highway~~ miniature on-road vehicle as such; and provided, further, that the
 85 commissioner shall make available for issuance ~~multipurpose off-highway~~ miniature
 86 on-road vehicle license plates of the design required by Code Section 40-2-31 not later
 87 than January 1, ~~2024~~ 2025."

88 **SECTION 5.**

89 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-151, relating to annual license fees for
 90 operation of vehicles, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as follows:

91 "(2) For each motorcycle, miniature on-road vehicle, or multipurpose
 92 off-highway vehicle 20.00 "

- 117 (4) A rearview mirror; and
118 (5) Safety belts.

119 40-6-360.

120 Every person operating a low-speed vehicle, miniature on-road vehicle, or multipurpose
121 off-highway vehicle shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all the duties
122 applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under this chapter except as to special
123 regulations in this part and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their
124 nature can have no application.

125 40-6-361.

126 (a) All low-speed vehicles, miniature on-road vehicles, and multipurpose off-highway
127 vehicles are entitled to full use of a lane, and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a
128 manner as to deprive any such vehicles of the full use of a lane.

129 (b) The operator of a low-speed vehicle, miniature on-road vehicle, or multipurpose
130 off-highway vehicle shall not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle
131 being overtaken.

132 (c) No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle, miniature on-road vehicle, or
133 multipurpose off-highway vehicle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or
134 rows of vehicles.

135 (d) Low-speed vehicles, miniature on-road vehicles, and multipurpose off-highway
136 vehicles shall not be operated two or more abreast in a single lane.

137 40-6-362.

138 (a) Low-speed vehicles shall be operated only on any highway where the posted speed
139 limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. The operator of a low-speed vehicle shall not

140 operate such vehicle on any highway where the posted speed limit exceeds 35 miles per
141 hour.

142 (b) Multipurpose off-highway vehicles shall be operated only on highways that are part
143 of a county road system and shall be authorized to cross highways that are part of a
144 municipal street system or are part of the state highway system.

145 (c) Miniature on-road vehicles shall be operated only on highways that are part of a
146 municipal street system or county road system, provided that such operation has not been
147 prohibited through ordinance or resolution within a local jurisdiction, and shall be
148 authorized to cross highways that are part of the state highway system."

149 **SECTION 8.**

150 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-6-371, relating to powers of local authorities
151 generally, by revising paragraphs (18.1) through (20) of subsection (a) and subsection (c) as
152 follows:

153 ~~"(18.1)~~(19) Regulating the operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices,
154 provided that such regulations are no less restrictive than those imposed by Part 2A of
155 Article 13 of this chapter;

156 ~~(18.2)~~(20) Regulating the operation of personal transportation vehicles, provided that
157 such regulations comply with Parts 3 and 6 of Article 13 of this chapter;

158 (21) Prohibiting the operation of miniature on-road vehicles as authorized in Code
159 Section 40-6-362;

160 ~~(19)~~(22) Adopting and enforcing such temporary or experimental regulations as may be
161 necessary to cover emergencies or special conditions; or

162 ~~(20)~~(23) Adopting such other traffic regulations as are specifically authorized by this
163 chapter."

164 "(c) No ordinance or regulation enacted under paragraph (4), (5), (6), (8), (9), (10), (11),
165 (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), ~~or (18.2)~~ (20), or (21) of subsection (a) of this Code

166 section shall be effective until official traffic-control devices giving notice of such local
167 traffic regulations are erected upon or at the entrances to the highway or the part thereof
168 affected as may be most appropriate."

169 **SECTION 9.**

170 This Act shall become effective on October 1, 2024.

171 **SECTION 10.**

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