

House Bill 308

By: Representatives Clifton of the 131st, Wiedower of the 121st, Rhodes of the 124th, Corbett of the 174th, Dickey of the 134th, and others

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. 308

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. 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,
54 retention of manufacturing and delivery costs, revalidation, county, and "In God We Trust"
55 decals, by revising subsection (b) as follows:

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

68 bear such figures, characters, letters, or combinations thereof as in the judgment of the
69 commissioner will to the best advantage advertise, popularize, and otherwise promote
70 Georgia as the 'Peach State.' Plates issued during the years 2026 through 2030 shall
71 include the design approved pursuant to Code Section 40-2-31.1. Except for license plates
72 issued pursuant to Article 2B of this chapter, any license plate issued pursuant to this
73 chapter shall be of such strength and quality that the plate shall provide a minimum service
74 period of at least five years. The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant
75 to the provisions of Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,' for
76 the design and issuance of new license plates and to implement the other provisions of this
77 Code section."

78

SECTION 4.

79 Said title is further amended in said Code section, as in effect on January 1, 2032, by revising
80 subsection (b) as follows:

81 "(b) License plates issued pursuant to this chapter shall be at least six inches wide and not
82 less than 12 inches in length, except that motorcycle license plates shall be at least four
83 inches wide and not less than seven inches in length and license plates for low-speed
84 vehicles, miniature on-road vehicles, and multipurpose off-highway vehicles shall be a size
85 determined by the commissioner. All license plates shall show in boldface characters the
86 month and year of expiration, the serial number, and either the full name or the
87 abbreviation of the name of the state, shall designate the county from which the license
88 plate was issued unless specifically stated otherwise in this chapter, and shall show such
89 other distinctive markings as in the judgment of the commissioner may be deemed
90 advisable, so as to indicate the class of weight of the vehicle for which the license plate was
91 issued. Any license plate for a low-speed vehicle, miniature on-road vehicle, or
92 multipurpose off-highway vehicle shall designate the vehicle as such. Such plates may also
93 bear such figures, characters, letters, or combinations thereof as in the judgment of the

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

101 **SECTION 5.**

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

105 "(2.1) The commissioner may provide for the issuance of a temporary operating permit
106 for any ~~multipurpose off-highway~~ miniature on-road vehicle, to be displayed until such
107 time as a license plate of the design required by Code Section 40-2-31 has been issued
108 to the registrant as a replacement for such temporary operating permit; provided,
109 however, that any such temporary operating permit shall designate the ~~multipurpose~~
110 ~~off-highway~~ miniature on-road vehicle as such; and provided, further, that the
111 commissioner shall make available for issuance ~~multipurpose off-highway~~ miniature
112 on-road vehicle license plates of the design required by Code Section 40-2-31 not later
113 than January 1, ~~2024~~ 2025."

114 **SECTION 6.**

115 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-151, relating to annual license fees for
116 operation of vehicles, fee for permanent licensing of certain trailers, and fee for new
117 passenger car with paid title ad valorem taxes, by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as
118 follows:

119 “(2) For each motorcycle, miniature on-road vehicle, or multipurpose
 120 off-highway vehicle 20.00”

SECTION 7.

122 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-3-30.1, relating to standards for issuance to
 123 assembled motor vehicle and motorcycle or converted motor vehicle, inspections,
 124 unconventional motor vehicle or motorcycle not to be titled or registered, and exception, by
 125 revising subsection (f) as follows:

126 “(f) Unconventional motor vehicles or motorcycles shall not be titled or registered;
 127 provided, however, that ~~a multipurpose off-highway vehicle manufactured after January~~
 128 ~~1, 2000~~, the following unconventional motor vehicles shall be registered upon proper
 129 application and payment of the required fee:

- 130 (1) A multipurpose off-highway vehicle manufactured after January 1, 2000;
- 131 (2) A miniature on-road vehicle manufactured more than 25 years prior to application;
- 132 and
- 133 (3) A miniature on-road vehicle manufactured less than 25 years prior to application that
 134 has been modified by an importer registered with the United States Department of
 135 Transportation to comply with applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards issued
 136 pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 30101, et seq., and certified by such importer as such.”

SECTION 8.

138 Said title is further amended by revising Part 5 of Article 13 of Chapter 6, relating to
 139 low-speed or multipurpose off-highway vehicles, as follows:

140 "Part 5

141 40-6-359.

142 Multipurpose off-highway vehicles and miniature on-road vehicles shall be equipped with:

143 (1) Headlights;

144 (2) Brake lights;

145 (3) Taillights;

146 (4) A rearview mirror; and

147 (5) Safety belts.

148 40-6-360.

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

154 40-6-361.

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

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

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

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

166 40-6-362.

167 (a) Low-speed vehicles shall be operated only on any highway where the posted speed
 168 limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. The operator of a low-speed vehicle shall not
 169 operate such vehicle on any highway where the posted speed limit exceeds 35 miles per
 170 hour.

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

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

178 **SECTION 9.**

179 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-6-371, relating to powers of local authorities
 180 generally, by revising paragraphs (18.1) through (20) of and adding a new paragraph to
 181 subsection (a) and by revising subsection (c) to read as follows:

182 ~~"(18.1)~~(19) Regulating the operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices,
 183 provided that such regulations are no less restrictive than those imposed by Part 2A of
 184 Article 13 of this chapter;

185 ~~(18.2)~~(20) Regulating the operation of personal transportation vehicles, provided that
 186 such regulations comply with Parts 3 and 6 of Article 13 of this chapter;

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

189 ~~(19)~~(22) Adopting and enforcing such temporary or experimental regulations as may be
190 necessary to cover emergencies or special conditions; or

191 ~~(20)~~(23) Adopting such other traffic regulations as are specifically authorized by this
192 chapter."

193 "(c) No ordinance or regulation enacted under paragraph (4), (5), (6), (8), (9), (10), (11),
194 (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), ~~or (18.2)~~ (20), or (21) of subsection (a) of this Code
195 section shall be effective until official traffic-control devices giving notice of such local
196 traffic regulations are erected upon or at the entrances to the highway or the part thereof
197 affected as may be most appropriate."

198 **SECTION 10.**

199 (a) Except as otherwise provided for in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become
200 effective on October 1, 2025.

201 (b) Section 4 of this Act shall become effective on January 1, 2032.

202 **SECTION 11.**

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