

Personal Transportation Vehicle

40-1-1(43.1) Any motor vehicle having no fewer than three wheels and an unladen weight of 1,300 pounds or less and which cannot operate at more than 20 miles per hour if such vehicle was authorized to operate on local roads by a local authority prior to January 1, 2012. Such vehicles may also be referred to as “motorized carts” in some local ordinances; AND

Any motor vehicle: (i) with a minimum of four wheels; (ii) capable of a maximum level ground speed of less than 20 miles per hour; (iii) with a maximum gross vehicle unladen or empty weight of 1,375 pounds; (iv) capable of transporting not more than eight persons.

Does not include mobility aids, including electric personal assistive mobility devices, power wheelchairs, and scooters, that can be used indoors and outdoors for the express purpose of enabling mobility for a person with a disability. The term also does not include any all-terrain vehicle or multipurpose off-highway vehicle.

(Example: vehicles similar in size and form to a golf cart but used for any purpose other than golf)

Golf Carts

40-1-1(17.3) Any motorized vehicle designed for the purpose and exclusive use of conveying one or more persons and equipment to play the game of golf in an area designated as a golf course. For such vehicle to be considered a golf car or golf cart, its average speed shall be less than 15 miles per hour (24 kilometers per hour) on a level road surface with a 0.5% grade (0.3 degrees) comprising a straight course composed of a concrete or asphalt surface that is dry and free from loose material or surface contamination with a minimum coefficient of friction of 0.8 between tire and surface.

*(Note: if vehicle is used for any purpose other than golf on a golf course, it is **not** a golf cart under this definition)*

Motorcycles¹

40-1-1(29) Every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor, all-terrain vehicle, and moped.

Mopeds

40-1-1(28) Moped: A motor driven cycle equipped with two or three wheels, with or without foot pedals to permit muscular propulsion, and an independent power source providing a maximum of two brake horsepower. If a combustion engine is used, the maximum piston or rotor displacement shall be 3.05 cubic inches (50 cubic centimeters) regardless of the number of chambers in such power source. The power source shall be capable of propelling the vehicle, unassisted, at a speed not to exceed 30 miles per hour (48.28 kilometers per hour) on level road surface and shall be equipped with a power drive system

¹ Motorcycles and mopeds also fit within a larger class of vehicles defined as “motor driven cycles” by 40-1-1(30)

that functions directly or automatically only, not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.

(Note: Electric rideshare scooters (e.g., “Bird” and “Lime” scooters generally meet the definition of a moped))

Bicycles/Electric Assisted Bicycles

40-1-1(6) Bicycle: Every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having only two wheels which are in tandem and either of which is more than 13 inches in diameter.

40-1-1(15.3) Electric assisted bicycle (EAB): A device with two or three wheels which has a saddle and fully operative pedals for human propulsion and also has an electric motor having a power output of not more than 750 watts.

40-6-300 Classes of EABs

Class I EAB: An EAB equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the driver reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

Class II EAB: An EAB equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the vehicle but is not capable of reaching a speed of 20 miles per hour.

Class III EAB: An EAB equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance with the device reaches a speed of 28 miles per hour.

All-Terrain Vehicles

40-1-1(3) A motorized vehicle originally manufactured for off-highway use which is equipped with three or more nonhighway tires, is 80 inches or less in width with a dry weight of 3,500 pounds or less, and is designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

Low-Speed Vehicles

40-1-1(25.1) Any four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed attainable in one mile is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour on a paved level surface and which is manufactured or converted to comply with standards based upon those federal motor vehicle safety standards for low-speed vehicles set forth in [49 C.F.R. Section 571.500](#), as amended.

Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices

40-1-1(15.4) A self-balancing, two non-tandem wheeled device designed to transport only one person and having an electric propulsion system with average power of 750 watts (1 horsepower) and a maximum speed of less than 20 miles per hour on a paved level surface when powered solely by such propulsion system and ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds.

(Example: vehicle commonly referred to as a “Segway”).



2022

GEORGIA

CHARGING LOW-SPEED & SMALL VEHICLES

Colonel Christopher C. Wright
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Public Safety

www.dps.ga.gov

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LAWS APPLICABLE TO CLASSES OF LOW-SPEED AND SMALL VEHICLES WHILE OPERATING ON THE HIGHWAY¹

REVIEW DEFINITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF VEHICLE IS APPLICABLE

Type of Vehicle <i>(location of definition)</i>	Personal Transportation Vehicle² 40-1-1(43.1)	Golf Cart 40-1-1(17.3)	Motorcycle 40-1-1(29)	Moped 40-1-1(28)	Bicycle / Electric Asst. Bicycle 40-1-1(6) & (15.3); 40-6-300	All-Terrain Vehicle 40-1-1(3)	Low-Speed Vehicle 40-1-1(25.1)	Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device 40-1-1(15.4)
Registration Required?	NO if electric; YES if gas powered OCGA § 40-2-20(b)(5)	NO OCGA § 40-2-20(b)(7)	YES OCGA § 40-2-20	NO OCGA § 40-2-20(b)(6)	NO OCGA §§ 40-2-20; 40-6-291(a)	YES OCGA § 40-2-20	YES OCGA § 40-2-20	NO OCGA §§ 40-2-20 40-1-1(15.4)
Driver's License / Age Requirement?	License required UNLESS exempt under ordinance OCGA §§ 40-5-20; 40-6-331	License required (on highway) OCGA § 40-5-20	Class M license required (except "Slingshots" – Class C required) OCGA §§ 40-5-20; 40-5-23	License OR permit required. Must be 15 or older. OCGA § 40-6-351	No age or license req'd for bicycle or Class I or II EAB. Must be 15 or older BUT no license req'd for Class III EAB. OCGA §§ 40-5-20; 40-6-303	License required OCGA § 40-5-20	License required OCGA §§ 40-5-20; 40-6-360	No license required. Must be 16 or older on highway. No age req't on sidewalk. OCGA § 40-6-325(b)
Proof of Insurance Required?	NO if electric; YES if gas powered OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4	NO OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4	YES OCGA § 40-6-11	NO OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4	NO OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4	YES OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4	YES OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4	NO OCGA § 40-6-10; 33-34-4
DUI Applicable?	YES OCGA § 40-6-391	YES OCGA § 40-6-391	YES OCGA § 40-6-391	YES OCGA § 40-6-391	YES 40-6-391; must also charge 40-6-291	YES OCGA § 40-6-391	YES OCGA § 40-6-391	YES BUT... charge under OCGA § 40-6-326
Implied Consent Applicable?	YES OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	YES OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	YES OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	YES OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	NO OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	YES OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	YES OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1	NO OCGA §§ 40-5-55; 40-5-67.1
Reckless Driving Applicable?	YES OCGA § 40-6-390	YES OCGA § 40-6-390	YES OCGA § 40-6-390	YES OCGA § 40-6-390	YES 40-6-390; must also charge 40-6-291	YES OCGA § 40-6-390	YES OCGA § 40-6-390	YES OCGA § 40-6-390
Seatbelt Requirements Applicable?	NO OCGA § 40-8-76.1(c)(6)	NO OCGA § 40-8-76.1(c)(6)	NO OCGA § 40-8-76.1(a)	NO OCGA § 40-8-76.1(a)	NO OCGA § 40-8-76.1(a)	POSSIBLY³ OCGA § 40-8-76.1	YES OCGA § 40-8-76.1	NO OCGA § 40-8-76.1
Child Seats Required?	NO OCGA § 40-8-76	NO OCGA § 40-8-76	NO, but see seating requirements of OCGA § 40-6-311 OCGA § 40-8-76	NO OCGA § 40-8-76	YES, see code for requirements OCGA § 40-6-292	NO OCGA § 40-8-76	NO OCGA § 40-8-76	Not Applicable OCGA § 40-8-76
Operable on Sidewalk?	NO, except upon driveways OCGA § 40-6-144	NO, except upon driveways OCGA § 40-6-144	NO, except upon driveways OCGA § 40-6-144	NO, except upon driveways OCGA § 40-6-144	NO, except upon driveways and children <12 by ordinance OCGA § 40-6-144	NO, except upon driveways OCGA § 40-6-144	NO, except upon driveways OCGA § 40-6-144	YES OCGA § 40-6-320
Limitations on highway operation?	Authorized only where speed limit is 25mph or less OCGA § 40-6-391.1	Regulated as a PTV if off golf course OCGA § 40-1-1(17.3)	NO, unless prohibited by DOT / sign OCGA § 40-6-54	State/local DOT can prohibit on roads as needed OCGA § 40-6-	NO, unless prohibited by DOT / sign OCGA § 40-6-54	NO, unless prohibited by DOT / sign OCGA § 40-6-54	Only where speed limit is 35mph or less OCGA § 40-6-392	Only where speed limit is 35mph or less or bike lane exists OCGA § 40-6-320
Lighting Requirements	Headlights, taillights, reflectors required, subject to same requirements as other motor vehicles. OCGA §§ 40-6-330.1; 40-8-20 through 40-8-35	Regulated as a PTV if off golf course OCGA § 40-1-1(17.3)	Same as other motor-driven cycles AND required to illuminate head/tail light at all times) OCGA §§ 40-6-312, 40-8-20 through 40-8-35	Same as other motorcycles BUT not required to illuminate head/tail light at all times) OCGA §§ 40-6-350, 40-8-20 through 40-8-35	Headlight and taillight OR rear reflector required at night OCGA § 40-6-296	Same as other motor vehicles OCGA §§ 40-8-20 through 40-8-35	Same as other motor vehicles + EITHER a properly affixed emblem or an amber strobe light OCGA §§ 40-8-4; 40-8-20 through 40-8-35	Front, rear, side reflectors; headlight for night operation OCGA § 40-6-325
Other Requirements / Limitations	See OCGA §§ 40-6-330 through 331 and 363 through 369.1	Regulated as a PTV if off golf course OCGA § 40-1-1(17.3)	See OCGA §§ 40-6-310 through 316	See OCGA §§ 40-6-350 through 354	See OCGA §§ 40-6-290 through 298 (bicycles); 40-6-300 through 303 (EABs)	Generally subject to all rules of the road if operated on highway ⁴	See OCGA §§ 40-6-360 through 362	See OCGA § 40-6-320 through 327

¹ Vehicles operated OFF the highway (as defined by O.C.G.A. § 40-1-1(19)) are *not* subject to these laws but may be subject to other laws or local ordinances.

² Requirements for these vehicles may be altered by local ordinance, especially if ordinances existed prior to January 1, 2012

³ Required if capable of a top speed of greater than 20 mph AND not in use by connection with farming operation by operator 18 years of age or older

⁴ See Op. Att'y Gen. No. 2007-3.