

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2312

Introduced by

Senators Sinner, Laffen

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact sections 39-29.2-05, 39-29.2-06, 39-29.2-07, 39-29.2-08,
2 39-29.2-09, 39-29.2-10, 39-29.2-11, 39-29.2-12, 39-29.2-13, 39-29.2-14, 39-29.2-15,
3 39-29.2-16, 39-29.2-17, 39-29.2-18, 39-29.2-19, and 39-29.2-20 of the North Dakota Century
4 Code, relating to unconventional vehicles; to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section
5 26.1-40-01, subsection 10 of section 26.1-41-01, subsection 49 of section 39-01-01, subsection
6 2 of section 39-29.2-01, and subsection 5 of section 39-29.2-03, and section 39-29.2-04 of the
7 North Dakota Century Code, relating to unconventional vehicles; to provide a penalty; and to
8 declare an emergency.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

10 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 26.1-40-01 of the North Dakota
11 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 12 3. "Policy" means any automobile policy which includes automobile liability coverage,
13 uninsured motorist coverage, underinsured motorist coverage, automobile medical
14 payments coverage, basic or optional excess no-fault benefits, or automobile physical
15 damage coverage, delivered or issued for delivery in this state, insuring as the named
16 insured an individual residing in this state, and under which the insured vehicles
17 designated in the policy are of the following types only:
- 18 a. A motor vehicle of the private passenger ~~or station wagon~~ type that is not used as
19 a public or livery conveyance, nor rented to others.
 - 20 b. Any four-wheel motor vehicle with a load capacity of one thousand five hundred
21 pounds [680.39 kilograms] or less which is not used in the occupation,
22 profession, or business of the insured, nor used as a public or livery conveyance,
23 nor rented to others.

1 c. Any motorcycle as that term is defined in section 39-01-01 that is not used as a
2 public or livery conveyance, nor rented to others.

3 d. An unconventional vehicle as that term is defined in subsection 2 of section
4 39-29.2-01 that is not used as a public or livery conveyance, nor rented to others.

5 "Policy" does not include any policy that has been in effect less than sixty days at the
6 time notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered by the insurer unless it is a renewal
7 policy; any policy issued under the North Dakota assigned risk plan; any policy
8 insuring more than six motor vehicles; any policy covering the operation of a garage,
9 automobile sales agency, repair shop, service station, or public parking place; any
10 policy providing insurance only on an excess basis; or any other contract providing
11 insurance to a named insured even though the contract may incidentally provide
12 insurance with respect to such motor vehicles.

13 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 10 of section 26.1-41-01 of the North Dakota
14 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15 10. "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle having more than three load-bearing wheels, of a kind
16 required to be registered under the laws of this state relating to motor vehicles,
17 designed primarily for operation upon the public streets, roads, and highways, and
18 driven by power other than muscular power, and includes a trailer drawn by or
19 attached to such a vehicle. The term does not include an unconventional vehicle
20 defined in subsection 2 of section 39-29.2-01.

21 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 49 of section 39-01-01 of the North Dakota
22 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23 49. "Motor-powered recreational vehicle" means a motorcycle, unconventional vehicle, or
24 off-highway vehicle as defined in section 39-29-01, or a snowmobile as defined in
25 section 39-24-01.

26 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 39-29.2-01 of the North Dakota
27 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

28 2. "Unconventional vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is designed to travel on at least
29 three wheels in contact with the ground, has an unladen weight of at least three
30 hundred pounds [136.08 kilograms] but less than eight thousand pounds [3628.7
31 kilograms], has a permanent upright seat ~~or saddle for the driver which is mounted at~~

1 ~~least twenty-four inches [50.8 centimeters] from the ground~~that does not require the
2 operator to straddle or sit astride it, has a steering device for front wheel steering
3 control, is capable of speeds in excess of sixty-five miles [104.61 kilometers] per hour,
4 complies with equipment listed in chapter 39-21 or 39-27, as appropriate, and has an
5 identifying number. The term does not include motor vehicles that otherwise may be
6 registered under this title.

7 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 5 of section 39-29.2-03 of the North Dakota
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 5. The fee for registration of an unconventional vehicle is fifty dollars per year. For a
10 duplicate or replacement registration number plate or registration card that is lost,
11 mutilated, or becomes illegible, the department may charge a fee of not more than five
12 dollars.

13 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-29.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **39-29.2-04. Operation of unconventional vehicle.**

16 To operate an unconventional vehicle on a highway, the operator must be a class D
17 licensed driver. An operator may operate an unconventional vehicle on any highway ~~except an~~
18 ~~access-controlled highway.~~

19 **SECTION 7.** Section 39-29.2-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
20 as follows:

21 **39-29.2-05. Equipment.**

- 22 1. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with safety glass or a windshield at all
23 times while operating the vehicle.
- 24 2. a. An operator and any passenger under the age of eighteen shall wear protective
25 helmets, except when the unconventional vehicle has a nonremovable roof, a
26 windshield, and an enclosed body.
- 27 b. If the operator of an unconventional vehicle is required to wear a safety helmet,
28 any passenger must also wear a safety helmet regardless of the passenger's
29 age.
- 30 c. A helmet violation under this subsection has the same penalty as driving a
31 motorcycle without a helmet.

- 1 3. Operators and passengers in an unconventional vehicle shall comply with seatbelt use
2 laws.

3 **SECTION 8.** Section 39-29.2-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
4 as follows:

5 **39-29.2-06. Manufacturer's or distributor's certification.**

- 6 1. The manufacturer or distributor shall certify that an unconventional vehicle is designed
7 and manufactured for use upon public highways and complies with the performance,
8 United States environmental protection agency equipment requirements, and the rules
9 of this chapter.
- 10 2. The certificate must be incorporated on the manufacturer's statement of origin upon
11 transfer of vehicle ownership.

12 **SECTION 9.** Section 39-29.2-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
13 as follows:

14 **39-29.2-07. Frame - Chassis - Requirements.**

- 15 1. The unconventional vehicle frame-chassis, including the suspension components and
16 engine mountings, must be of substantial construction, capable of supporting the
17 combined weight of all vehicle components including the riders for whom the vehicle is
18 designed, and must withstand normal road shocks and operational stresses, without
19 constituting a hazard to the riders or other users of the highway.
- 20 2. The unconventional vehicle wheelbase may not be less than forty inches [101.6
21 centimeters].

22 **SECTION 10.** Section 39-29.2-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
23 as follows:

24 **39-29.2-08. Brakes.**

- 25 1. Every unconventional vehicle must have either a split service brake system or two
26 independently actuated service brake systems, in accordance with rules adopted by
27 the director under chapter 28-32. Brakes must act on the front and rear wheels.
- 28 2. Every unconventional vehicle must meet the requirements for brake system
29 effectiveness, fade, and partial systems, as specified in rules adopted by the director
30 under chapter 28-32.

- 1 3. If applicable, all linkages, cables, pivots, and bearings must be free of excess friction,
2 with the front wheel brake cable located and secured so as not to become pinched
3 between the fork and frame members when the wheel is turned completely to the right
4 or left.
- 5 4. Brake actuating devices must be in an accessible location, unencumbered by vehicle
6 components, and positioned so that adequate leverage and safe operation is ensured.
7 Service brake system controls and operation requirements must be in accordance with
8 rules adopted by the director under chapter 28-32. A suitable mechanism must be
9 provided for the purpose of automatically returning the actuating devices to normal
10 position upon release.
- 11 5. Unconventional vehicles brakes must be capable of being adjusted automatically or
12 manually with means provided to prevent unintentional adjustment.
- 13 6. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with an emergency or parking brake of a
14 friction type, with a solely mechanical means to retain engagement.
- 15 7. The brake system on an unconventional vehicle should be capable of stopping within
16 a distance of thirty feet [9.14 meters] on a dry, hard, approximately level stretch of
17 highway that is free from loose material at all times and under all conditions, at a
18 speed of twenty miles per hour [32 kilometers per hour].

19 **SECTION 11.** Section 39-29.2-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
20 as follows:

21 **39-29.2-09. Tires, wheels, and rims.**

- 22 1. Unconventional vehicle tires must be of pneumatic design, with a minimum width of
23 two and twenty-five hundredths inches [57.15 millimeters], and must be designed for
24 highway use.
- 25 2. Tires on an unconventional vehicle must have a load capacity rating at least equal to
26 the respective gross axle weight ratings. Each tire on the front or rear axle must have
27 a load capacity rating at least equal to one-half the front or rear axle gross axle weight
28 rating.
- 29 3. Wheel rim diameters may not be less than ten inches [25.4 centimeters] or must
30 comply with title 49, C.F.R., part 571, federal motor vehicle safety standards, and must
31 comply with applicable state standards, as adopted by the director.

1 **SECTION 12.** Section 39-29.2-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
2 as follows:

3 **39-29.2-10. Steering and suspension systems.**

- 4 1. Unconventional vehicle steering and suspension systems must be designed and
5 engineered to provide the operator with the means of safely controlling the
6 unconventional vehicle direction under all maneuvers required for normal and safe
7 operation.
- 8 2. On a three-wheel unconventional vehicle, the midpoint of the front or rear wheel track
9 distance must be within one inch [2.54 centimeters] of the single front or single rear
10 wheel track when the vehicle is proceeding on a straight course. If applicable, the
11 vehicle must be equipped with an adjustment feature that will provide proper wheel
12 tracking.
- 13 3. The steering head must be provided with a bearing or similar device that will allow the
14 steering shaft to turn freely in rotational motion only.
- 15 4. If applicable, an unconventional vehicle must meet the following specifications in
16 relationship to front wheel geometry:
- 17 a. Maximum:
- 18 (1) Rake - Forty-five degrees; and
- 19 (2) Trail - Fourteen inches [35.56 centimeters] positive.
- 20 b. Minimum:
- 21 (1) Rake - Twenty degrees; and
- 22 (2) Trail - Two inches [5.08 centimeters] positive.
- 23 5. Manufacturer's specifications must include the specific rake and trail for each
24 unconventional vehicle. The terms "rake" and "trail" must be defined by the director by
25 rules adopted under chapter 28-32.
- 26 6. The steering device must be of sturdy construction, adequate in size to provide proper
27 leverage for steering, and capable of withstanding a minimum force of one hundred
28 pounds [45.36 kilograms] applied to each handgrip, if so equipped, in any direction.
29 Steering device grips may not be located above the shoulder height of the seated
30 operator. The steering device must provide a minimum of eighteen inches [45.72
31 centimeters] between each grip, after final assembly.

1 7. The steering device must be equipped with material and surface patterns to ensure
2 firm, nonslip gripping for the driver.

3 8. Every unconventional vehicle must be equipped with a suspension system. The
4 suspension system must be effective in reducing road shock and designed for the
5 purpose of maximizing vehicle stability.

6 **SECTION 13.** Section 39-29.2-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
7 as follows:

8 **39-29.2-11. Fuel system.**

9 1. All fuel system components, including the tank, pump, tubing, hoses, and clamps must
10 be securely fastened to the unconventional vehicle, so as not to interfere with its
11 operation and must be leakproof when the vehicle is in its normal operating attitude.

12 2. Fuel lines must be positioned so as to prevent their contact with the engine head,
13 manifold, exhaust system, or other high temperature surfaces, or with moving
14 components. The fuel system must be adequately vented and provided with a fuel
15 shutoff valve located between the fuel supply and the engine.

16 **SECTION 14.** Section 39-29.2-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
17 as follows:

18 **39-29.2-12. Exhaust system - Prevention of noise.**

19 1. Unconventional vehicles must be equipped with an exhaust system incorporating a
20 muffler or other mechanical device, for the purpose of effectively reducing engine
21 noise.

22 2. Cutouts and bypasses in the exhaust system are prohibited.

23 3. The system must be leakproof and all components must be securely attached to the
24 vehicle and located so as not to interfere with the operation of the unconventional
25 vehicle.

26 4. Shielding must be provided to prevent inadvertent contact with the exhaust system by
27 the operator or passenger during normal operation.

28 5. An unconventional vehicle operating on streets and highways must meet the noise
29 decibel limitations as established by the United States environmental protection
30 agency.

1 6. A person may not sell, offer for sale, or install any noise suppressing system or device,
2 which will produce noise in excess of the maximum allowable decibel limitations set
3 forth in this section.

4 **SECTION 15.** Section 39-29.2-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
5 as follows:

6 **39-29.2-13. Mirror.**

7 Every unconventional vehicle must be equipped with two mirrors, securely affixed and
8 capable of adjustment within a range that will reflect an image that includes at least the horizon
9 and the road surface to the rear of the unconventional vehicle. A mirror must consist of a
10 minimum reflective surface of ten square inches [64.52 square centimeters]. A mirror may not
11 contain sharp edges or projections capable of producing injury.

12 **SECTION 16.** Section 39-29.2-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
13 as follows:

14 **39-29.2-14. Fenders.**

15 If applicable, each wheel of an unconventional vehicle must be equipped with fenders or
16 otherwise covered by the body configuration. Fenders must be securely mounted and of
17 sufficient size and strength to minimize water or other road surface substances from coming in
18 contact with the vehicle riders or throwing the road substances unreasonably to the rear of the
19 vehicle. The fender design must be effective in reducing side spray.

20 **SECTION 17.** Section 39-29.2-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
21 as follows:

22 **39-29.2-15. Seat.**

- 23 1. A seat securely attached to the vehicle must be provided for the use of the operator
24 and be a permanent upright seat that does not require the operator to straddle or sit
25 astride it. The seat adjustment locking device must prevent relative movement of the
26 seat from its selected and secured position under all normal vehicle operating
27 conditions.
- 28 2. An unconventional vehicle designed to carry more than one person must be equipped
29 with a securely mounted seat for each passenger. The seat must be located to the
30 side or rear of the driver so that the passenger seat does not interfere with the driver's
31 control or operation of the vehicle.

1 **SECTION 18.** Section 39-29.2-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
2 as follows:

3 **39-29.2-16. Glazing.**

4 An unconventional vehicle windscreen and windshield must meet the following standards:

- 5 1. The glazing material must comply with the standards made by rule;
- 6 2. The metal support must be of a material that bends rather than fragments under
7 impact; and
- 8 3. Any covering material, other than glazing, must be beaded at the edges to prevent
9 fraying.

10 **SECTION 19.** Section 39-29.2-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
11 as follows:

12 **39-29.2-17. Horn.**

13 Every unconventional vehicle must be equipped with a horn, in good working order, as
14 described by subsection 1 of section 39-21-36. The horn must operate from a control located on
15 the steering device.

16 **SECTION 20.** Section 39-29.2-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
17 as follows:

18 **39-29.2-18. Speedometer and odometer.**

19 Every unconventional vehicle must be equipped with a properly operating speedometer and
20 an odometer, calibrated in miles or kilometers per hour respectively, and must be fully
21 illuminated when the headlamp is activated.

22 **SECTION 21.** Section 39-29.2-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
23 as follows:

24 **39-29.2-19. Lighting equipment.**

- 25 1. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with lamps, reflective devices, and
26 associated equipment, as required by and in compliance with standards adopted by
27 rule of the director.
- 28 2. A gearbox indicator light, if provided, must be located within the operator's field of
29 vision.
- 30 3. A headlamp beam indicator light must be located within the operator's field of vision
31 and illuminated automatically when the high beam of the headlamp is actuated.

1 4. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with at least one taillamp, in accordance
2 with section 39-21-04.

3 5. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with a stop lamp, in accordance with
4 subsection 1 of section 39-21-19.

5 6. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with hazard warning signals in
6 accordance with section 39-21-19.1.

7 **SECTION 22.** Section 39-29.2-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted
8 as follows:

9 **39-29.2-20. Headlamps.**

10 1. The headlamp or headlamps on an unconventional vehicle must be a multiple-beam
11 type.

12 2. The headlamp or headlamps on an unconventional vehicle must be of sufficient
13 intensity to reveal an individual or a vehicle at a distance of not less than:

14 a. One hundred feet [30.48 meters], when the unconventional vehicle is operated at
15 any speed less than twenty-five miles [40.23 kilometers] per hour;

16 b. Two hundred feet [60.96 meters], when the unconventional vehicle is operated at
17 a speed of twenty-five miles [40.23 kilometers] per hour, but less than thirty-five
18 miles [56.33 kilometers] per hour; and

19 c. Three hundred feet [91.44 meters], when the unconventional vehicle is operated
20 at a speed of thirty-five miles [56.33 kilometers] per hour, or more.

21 3. An unconventional vehicle must be equipped with a multiple-beam headlamp that
22 meets the minimum requirements set forth in this section and may not exceed the
23 limitations set forth in subsection 1 of section 39-21-20 and the lowermost beam must
24 meet the requirements applicable to a lowermost distribution of light as set forth in
25 subsection 2 of section 39-21-20.

26 **SECTION 23. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.