1	н. в. 2381
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3	(By Delegates Skaff, Swartzmiller and Staggers)
4	[Introduced February 13, 2013; referred to the
5	Committee on Roads and Transportation then the
6	Judiciary.]
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10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$17A-3-2$ of the Code of West Virginia,
11	1931, as amended, relating to the use of low-speed vehicles in
12	municipalities; and authorizing a municipality, by ordinance,
13	to allow the use of low-speed vehicles on roads in that
14	municipality with a speed limit not more than thirty-five
15	miles per hour.
16	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
17	That \$17A-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
18	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
19	ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF
20	CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.
21	§17A-3-2. Every motor vehicle, etc., subject to registration and
22	certificate of title provisions; exceptions.
23	(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer

- 1 and recreational vehicle when driven or moved upon a highway is 2 subject to the registration and certificate of title provisions of
- 3 this chapter except:
- 4 (1) Any vehicle driven or moved upon a highway in conformance 5 with the provisions of this chapter relating to manufacturers, 6 transporters, dealers, lienholders or nonresidents or under a 7 temporary registration permit issued by the division as authorized 8 under this chapter;
- (2) Any implement of husbandry upon which is securely attached 10 a machine for spraying fruit trees and plants of the owner or 11 lessee or for any other implement of husbandry which is used 12 exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes on lands 13 owned or leased by the owner of the implement and which is not 14 operated on or over any public highway of this state for any other 15 purpose other than for the purpose of operating it across a highway 16 or along a highway other than an expressway as designated by the 17 Commissioner of the Division of Highways from one point of the 18 owner's land to another part of the owner's land, irrespective of 19 whether or not the tracts adjoin: Provided, That the distance 20 between the points may not exceed thirty-five miles, or for the 21 purpose of taking it or other fixtures attached to the implement, 22 to and from a repair shop for repairs. The exemption in this 23 subdivision from registration and license requirements also applies 24 to any vehicle described in this subsection or to any farm trailer

- 1 owned by the owner or lessee of the farm on which the trailer is 2 used, when the trailer is used by the owner of the trailer for the 3 purpose of moving farm produce and livestock from the farm along a 4 public highway for a distance not to exceed thirty-five miles to a 5 storage house or packing plant, when the use is a seasonal 6 operation:
- (A) The exemptions contained in this section also apply to 8 farm machinery, tractors and mini-trucks: Provided, That the 9 machinery, tractors and mini-trucks may use the highways in going 10 from one tract of land to another tract of land regardless of 11 whether the land is owned by the same or different persons. For this section, mini-truck 12 the purposes of 13 foreign-manufactured import or domestic-manufactured vehicle 14 designed primarily for off-road use and powered by an engine 15 ranging in size from 550cc to 660cc and weighing approximately one 16 thousand eight hundred pounds;
- 17 (B) Any vehicle exempted under this subsection from the 18 requirements of annual registration certificate and license plates 19 and fees for the registration certificate and license plate may not 20 use the highways between sunset and sunrise unless the vehicle is 21 classified as a Class A motor vehicle with a farm-use exemption 22 under the provisions of section one, article ten of this chapter 23 and has a valid and current inspection sticker as required by the 24 provisions of article sixteen, chapter seventeen-c of this code and

- 1 is traveling from one tract of land to another over a distance of
 2 thirty-five miles or less;
- 3 (C) Any vehicle exempted under this section from the 4 requirements of annual registration certificate and license plates 5 may use the highways as provided in this section whether the exempt 6 vehicle is self-propelled, towed by another exempt vehicle or towed 7 by another vehicle required to be registered;
- 8 (D) Any vehicle used as an implement of husbandry exempt under
 9 this section shall have the words "farm use" affixed to both sides
 10 of the implement in ten-inch letters. Any vehicle which would be
 11 subject to registration as a Class A or B vehicle if not exempted
 12 by this section shall display a farm-use exemption certificate on
 13 the lower driver's side of the windshield:
- (i) The farm-use exemption certificate shall be provided by
 the commissioner and shall be issued annually by the assessor of
 the applicant's county of residence. The assessor shall issue a
 farm-use exemption certificate to the applicant upon his or her
 determination pursuant to an examination of the property books or
 documentation provided by the applicant that the vehicle has been
 properly assessed as Class I personal property. Nothing in this
 section or any rule promulgated under the authority of chapter
 twenty-nine-a of this code may be construed to require any
 applicant for a renewal of a farm use exemption certificate to

- 1 a fee of \$2 for each certificate, which shall be retained by the 2 assessor;
- 3 (ii) A farm-use exemption certificate shall not exempt the 4 applicant from maintaining the security required by chapter 5 seventeen-d of this code on any vehicle being operated on the roads 6 or highways of this state;
- 7 (iii) No person charged with the offense of operating a 8 vehicle without a farm-use exemption certificate, if required under 9 this section, may be convicted of the offense if he or she produces 10 in court, or in the office of the arresting officer, a valid 11 farm-use exemption certificate for the vehicle in question within 12 five days;
- 13 (3) Any vehicle which is propelled exclusively by electric 14 power obtained from overhead trolley wires though not operated upon 15 rails;
- 16 (4) Any vehicle of a type subject to registration which is 17 owned by the government of the United States;
- 18 (5) Any wrecked or disabled vehicle towed by a licensed 19 wrecker or dealer on the public highways of this state;
- 20 (6) The following recreational vehicles are exempt from the 21 requirements of annual registration, license plates and fees, 22 unless otherwise specified by law, but are subject to the 23 certificate of title provisions of this chapter regardless of 24 highway use: Motorboats, all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain

- 1 vehicles and snowmobiles; and
- 2 (7) Any special mobile equipment as defined in subsection (r),
- 3 section one, article one of this chapter.
- 4 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this 5 section:
- 6 (1) Mobile homes or manufactured homes are exempt from the 7 requirements of annual registration, license plates and fees;
- 8 (2) House trailers may be registered and licensed; and
- 9 (3) Factory-built homes are subject to the certificate of 10 title provisions of this chapter.
- 12 if the manufacturer's certificate of origin clearly identifies the
 13 vehicle as a low-speed vehicle. The division may not title or
 14 register homemade low-speed vehicles or retrofitted golf carts and
 15 such vehicles do not qualify as low-speed vehicles in this state.
 16 In addition to all other motor vehicle laws and regulations, except
 17 as specifically exempted below, low-speed vehicles are subject to
 18 the following restrictions and requirements:
- (1) Low-speed vehicles shall only be operated on private roads 20 and on public roads and streets within the corporate limits of a 21 municipality where the speed limit is not more than twenty-five 22 miles per hour: *Provided*, That a municipality may authorize, by 23 ordinance, low-speed vehicles on private roads and on public roads 24 and streets within the corporate limits of a municipality where the

1 speed limit is not more than thirty-five miles per hour;

- 2 (2) Notwithstanding any provisions in this code to the 3 contrary, low-speed vehicles shall meet the requirements of 49 4 C.F.R. §571.500 (2003);
- (3) In lieu of annual inspection, the owner of a low-speed vehicle shall, upon initial application for registration and each renewal thereafter, certify under penalty of false swearing, that all lights, brakes, tires and seat belts are in good working condition; and
- 10 (4) Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must hold a valid 11 driver's license, not an instruction permit.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow the use of low-speed vehicles in municipalities with speed limits of thirty-five miles per hour or less.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.