1	н. в. 3186
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3 4 5	(By Delegates Ashley, Mahan, Staggers, Williams, Butcher, Craig and Skaff)
6	[Introduced February 18, 2011; referred to the
7	Committee on Roads and Transportation then the 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 allowing the use of low-speed
12	vehicles in incorporated municipalities with speed limits of
13	thirty-five miles per hour or less.
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
15	That §17A-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
16	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
17	ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF
18	CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.
19	\$17A-3-2. Every motor vehicle, etc., subject to registration and
20	certificate of title provisions; exceptions.
21	(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer
22	and recreational vehicle when driven or moved upon a highway is
23	subject to the registration and certificate of title provisions of
24	this chapter except:
25	(1) Any vehicle driven or moved upon a highway in conformance

- 1 with the provisions of this chapter relating to manufacturers,
- 2 transporters, dealers, lienholders or nonresidents or under a
- 3 temporary registration permit issued by the division as authorized
- 4 under this chapter;
- (2) Any implement of husbandry upon which is securely attached 6 a machine for spraying fruit trees and plants of the owner or lessee 7 or for any other implement of husbandry which is used exclusively 8 for agricultural or horticultural purposes on lands owned or leased 9 by the owner of the implement and which is not operated on or over 10 any public highway of this state for any other purpose other than 11 for the purpose of operating it across a highway or along a highway 12 other than an expressway as designated by the Commissioner of the 13 Division of Highways from one point of the owner's land to another 14 part of the owner's land, irrespective of whether or not the tracts Provided, That the distance between the points may not 16 exceed thirty-five miles, or for the purpose of taking it or other 17 fixtures attached to the implement, to and from a repair shop for 18 repairs. The exemption in this subdivision from registration and 19 license requirements also applies to any vehicle described in this 20 subsection or to any farm trailer owned by the owner or lessee of 21 the farm on which the trailer is used, when the trailer is used by 22 the owner of the trailer for the purpose of moving farm produce and 23 livestock from the farm along a public highway for a distance not 24 to exceed thirty-five miles to a storage house or packing plant,

1 when the use is a seasonal operation:

- 2 (A) The exemptions contained in this section also apply to farm 3 machinery, tractors and mini-trucks: *Provided*, That the machinery, 4 tractors and mini-trucks may use the highways in going from one 5 tract of land to another tract of land regardless of whether the 6 land is owned by the same or different persons. For the purposes 7 of this section, mini-truck means a foreign-manufactured import or 8 domestic-manufactured vehicle designed primarily for off-road use 9 and powered by an engine ranging in size from 550cc to 660cc and 10 weighing approximately one thousand eight hundred pounds;
- 11 (B) Any vehicle exempted under this subsection from the 12 requirements of annual registration certificate and license plates 13 and fees for the registration certificate and license plate may not 14 use the highways between sunset and sunrise unless the vehicle is 15 classified as a Class A motor vehicle with a farm-use exemption 16 under the provisions of section one, article ten of this chapter and 17 has a valid and current inspection sticker as required by the 18 provisions of article sixteen, chapter seventeen-c of this code and 19 is traveling from one tract of land to another over a distance of 20 thirty-five miles or less;
- 21 (C) Any vehicle exempted under this section from the 22 requirements of annual registration certificate and license plates 23 may use the highways as provided in this section whether the exempt 24 vehicle is self-propelled, towed by another exempt vehicle or towed

1 by another vehicle required to be registered;

- 2 (D) Any vehicle used as an implement of husbandry exempt under 3 this section shall have the words "farm use" affixed to both sides 4 of the implement in ten-inch letters. Any vehicle which would be 5 subject to registration as a Class A or B vehicle if not exempted 6 by this section shall display a farm-use exemption certificate on 7 the lower driver's side of the windshield:
- (i) The farm-use exemption certificate shall be provided by the 9 commissioner and shall be issued annually by the assessor of the 10 applicant's county of residence. The assessor shall issue a farm-11 use exemption certificate to the applicant upon his or her 12 determination pursuant to an examination of the property books or 13 documentation provided by the applicant that the vehicle has been 14 properly assessed as Class I personal property. Nothing in this 15 section or any rule promulgated under the authority of chapter 16 twenty-nine-a of this code may be construed to require any applicant 17 for a renewal of a farm use exemption certificate to appear 18 personally before any assessor. The assessor shall charge a fee of 19 \$2 for each certificate, which shall be retained by the assessor; (ii) A farm-use exemption certificate shall not exempt the 20 21 applicant from maintaining the security required by chapter 22 seventeen-d of this code on any vehicle being operated on the roads 23 or highways of this state;
- 24 (iii) No person charged with the offense of operating a vehicle

1 without a farm-use exemption certificate, if required under this 2 section, may be convicted of the offense if he or she produces in 3 court, or in the office of the arresting officer, a valid farm-use 4 exemption certificate for the vehicle in question within five days;

- 5 (3) Any vehicle which is propelled exclusively by electric 6 power obtained from overhead trolley wires though not operated upon 7 rails:
- 8 (4) Any vehicle of a type subject to registration which is 9 owned by the Government of the United States;
- 10 (5) Any wrecked or disabled vehicle towed by a licensed wrecker 11 or dealer on the public highways of this state;
- 12 (6) The following recreational vehicles are exempt from the 13 requirements of annual registration, license plates and fees, unless 14 otherwise specified by law, but are subject to the certificate of 15 title provisions of this chapter regardless of highway use: 16 Motorboats, all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles and 17 snowmobiles; and
- 18 (7) Any special mobile equipment as defined in subsection (r), 19 section one, article one of this chapter.
- 20 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this 21 section:
- 22 (1) Mobile homes or manufactured homes are exempt from the 23 requirements of annual registration, license plates and fees;
- 24 (2) House trailers may be registered and licensed; and

- 1 (3) Factory-built homes are subject to the certificate of title 2 provisions of this chapter.
- 3 (c) The division shall title and register low-speed vehicles
 4 if the manufacturer's certificate of origin clearly identifies the
 5 vehicle as a low-speed vehicle. The division may not title or
 6 register homemade low-speed vehicles or retrofitted golf carts and
 7 such vehicles do not qualify as low-speed vehicles in this state.
 8 In addition to all other motor vehicle laws and regulations, except
 9 as specifically exempted below, low-speed vehicles are subject to
 10 the following restrictions and requirements:
- 11 (1) Low-speed vehicles shall only be operated on private roads
 12 and on public roads and streets within the corporate limits of a
 13 municipality where the speed limit is not more than twenty-five
 14 thirty-five miles per hour;
- 15 (2) Notwithstanding any provisions in this code to the 16 contrary, low-speed vehicles shall meet the requirements of 49 17 C.F.R. §571.500 (2003);
- 18 (3) In lieu of annual inspection, the owner of a low-speed 19 vehicle shall, upon initial application for registration and each 20 renewal thereafter, certify under penalty of false swearing, that 21 all lights, brakes, tires and seat belts are in good working 22 condition; and
- 23 (4) Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must hold a valid 24 driver's license, not an instruction permit.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow the use of low-speed vehicles in incorporated 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.