

---

By: **Delegate Malone**  
Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2005  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 24, 2005

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles - Low Speed Vehicles - Standards and Restrictions**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying that the Motor Vehicle Administration may issue  
4 certificates of title for, and register, certain low speed vehicles; providing for the  
5 classification of low speed vehicles; establishing an annual registration fee for  
6 low speed vehicles; requiring the application for registration of low speed  
7 vehicles to be submitted electronically; requiring a licensed dealer of low speed  
8 vehicles under certain circumstances to obtain a low speed vehicle registration  
9 application from the vehicle's owner, collect registration fees, and transmit the  
10 application and fees in a certain manner within a certain period; prohibiting a  
11 person from driving a low speed vehicle on certain roadways; authorizing the  
12 State Highway Administration or a local authority to prohibit or restrict a  
13 person from driving a low speed vehicle on certain roadways; requiring a low  
14 speed vehicle to comply with certain federal standards; authorizing the Motor  
15 Vehicle Administration to adopt regulations requiring certain equipment for low  
16 speed vehicles; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Department  
17 of State Police to adopt certain regulations establishing equipment standards for  
18 low speed vehicles; clarifying that certain defined terms include low speed  
19 vehicles; clarifying that a certain defined term does not include low speed  
20 vehicles; defining a certain term; providing for a delayed effective date; and  
21 generally relating to standards and restrictions for low speed vehicles.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article - Insurance  
24 Section 20-501  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

1 BY adding to  
2 Article - Transportation  
3 Section 11-130.1, 13-939.2, and 21-1123  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Transportation  
8 Section 11-135, 11-176, 13-403, 13-954, 21-313(a), 22-101(e), ~~and~~ 23-104, and  
9 25-102(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article - Transportation  
14 Section 13-101.1, 13-402(a)(1), 23-206(a) and (b), 23-207, and 27-101(a) and  
15 (b)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article - Insurance**

21 20-501.

22 (a) In this subtitle, "covered vehicle" means a motor vehicle for which the  
23 Fund is required to provide coverage under this subtitle.

24 (b) "Covered vehicle" includes an automobile, truck, van, and trailer.

25 (c) "Covered vehicle" does not include a motorcycle, LOW SPEED VEHICLE, or  
26 motorbike.

27 **Article - Transportation**

28 11-130.1.

29 "LOW SPEED VEHICLE" MEANS A FOUR-WHEELED ELECTRIC VEHICLE THAT  
30 HAS A MAXIMUM SPEED CAPABILITY THAT EXCEEDS 20 MILES PER HOUR BUT IS LESS  
31 THAN 25 MILES PER HOUR.

32 11-135.

33 (a) (1) "Motor vehicle" means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
34 section, a vehicle that:

1 [1] (I) Is self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from  
2 overhead electrical wires; and

3 [(2)] (II) Is not operated on rails.

4 (2) "MOTOR VEHICLE" INCLUDES A LOW SPEED VEHICLE.

5 (b) "Motor vehicle" does not include:

6 (1) A moped, as defined in § 11-134.1 of this subtitle; or

7 (2) A motor scooter, as defined in § 11-134.4 of this subtitle.

8 11-176.

9 (a) (1) "Vehicle" means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,  
10 any device in, on, or by which any individual or property is or might be transported or  
11 towed on a highway.

12 (2) "VEHICLE" INCLUDES A LOW SPEED VEHICLE.

13 (b) "Vehicle" does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device as  
14 defined in § 21-101(g-1) of this article.

15 13-101.1.

16 Except as provided in § 13-102 of this subtitle, the owner of each vehicle that is  
17 in this State and for which the Administration has not issued a certificate of title  
18 shall apply to the Administration for a certificate of title of the vehicle.

19 13-402.

20 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or elsewhere in the  
21 Maryland Vehicle Law, each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven  
22 on a highway shall be registered under this subtitle.

23 13-403.

24 (a) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
25 SUBSECTION, THE owner of a vehicle subject to registration under this subtitle shall  
26 apply to the Administration for the registration of the vehicle in a manner that the  
27 Administration requires.

28 (2) THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A LOW SPEED VEHICLE  
29 SHALL BE MADE BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION UNDER § 13-610 OF THIS TITLE.

30 (b) The application shall contain the information that the Administration  
31 reasonably requires to determine if the vehicle is entitled to registration.

1 (C) IF A LICENSED DEALER HOLDS A LOW SPEED VEHICLE FOR SALE AND  
2 TRANSFERS THE VEHICLE TO A PERSON OTHER THAN ANOTHER LICENSED DEALER,  
3 THE DEALER SHALL:

4 (1) OBTAIN FROM THE TRANSFEREE A COMPLETED APPLICATION;

5 (2) COLLECT ALL FEES REQUIRED TO REGISTER THE LOW SPEED  
6 VEHICLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND

7 (3) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THE LOW SPEED  
8 VEHICLE, ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT THE APPLICATION AND FEES IN  
9 ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-610 OF THIS TITLE.

10 13-939.2.

11 (A) WHEN REGISTERED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, EVERY LOW SPEED  
12 VEHICLE IS A CLASS R (LOW SPEED) VEHICLE.

13 (B) FOR EACH CLASS R (LOW SPEED) VEHICLE, THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION  
14 FEE IS \$35.00.

15 13-954.

16 (a) In this section, "motor vehicle" means a:

17 (1) Class A (passenger) vehicle;

18 (2) Class B (for hire) vehicle;

19 (3) Class C (funeral and ambulance) vehicle;

20 (4) Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;

21 (5) Class E (truck) vehicle;

22 (6) Class F (tractor) vehicle;

23 (7) Class H (school) vehicle;

24 (8) Class J (vanpool) vehicle;

25 (9) Class M (multipurpose) vehicle;

26 (10) Class P (passenger bus) vehicle;

27 (11) Class Q (limousine) vehicle; [or]

28 (12) CLASS R (LOW SPEED) VEHICLE; OR

29 (13) Vehicle within any other class designated by the Administrator.

1 (b) (1) In addition to the registration fee otherwise required by this title, the  
 2 owner of any motor vehicle registered under this title shall pay a surcharge of \$13.50  
 3 per year for each motor vehicle registered.

4 (2) \$2.50 of the surcharge collected under paragraph (1) of this  
 5 subsection shall be paid into the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund  
 6 established under § 19-130 of the Health - General Article.

7 21-313.

8 (a) The State Highway Administration, by order, or any local authority, by  
 9 ordinance, may prohibit the use of any controlled access highway in its jurisdiction by  
 10 parades, LOW SPEED VEHICLES, funeral processions, bicycles, or other nonmotorized  
 11 traffic or by any person operating a motorcycle.

12 21-1123.

13 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, A PERSON MAY NOT  
 14 DRIVE A LOW SPEED VEHICLE:

15 (1) ON A ~~ROADWAY~~ HIGHWAY FOR WHICH THE POSTED MAXIMUM  
 16 SPEED LIMIT EXCEEDS 30 MILES PER HOUR; ~~OR~~

17 (2) ON AN EXPRESSWAY OR ANOTHER CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY  
 18 THAT IS SIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-313 OF THIS TITLE;

19 (3) ON A HIGHWAY ON WHICH DRIVING A LOW SPEED VEHICLE IS  
 20 PROHIBITED BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE; OR

21 (4) ACROSS A HIGHWAY FOR WHICH THE POSTED MAXIMUM SPEED  
 22 LIMIT EXCEEDS 45 MILES PER HOUR, EXCEPT AT AN INTERSECTION THAT IS  
 23 CONTROLLED BY:

24 (I) A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL; OR

25 (II) A STOP SIGN AT EACH APPROACH TO THE INTERSECTION.

26 22-101.

27 (e) (1) The provisions of this title with respect to equipment on vehicles do  
 28 not apply to farm equipment, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors, except as  
 29 made applicable in this title.

30 (2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THIS  
 31 TITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO LOW SPEED VEHICLES.

32 (II) 1. A LOW SPEED VEHICLE SHALL COMPLY WITH FEDERAL  
 33 STANDARDS UNDER 49 C.F.R. 571.500.



- 1           (3)     Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblies on highways;
- 2           (4)     Designating particular highways or separate roadways as one-way  
3 highways and requiring that all vehicles on them move in one specified direction;
- 4           (5)     Regulating the speed and weight of vehicles in public parks;
- 5           (6)     Designating any highway as a through highway or designating any  
6 intersection as a stop intersection or a yield intersection;
- 7           (7)     Restricting the use of highways as provided in Title 24 of this article;
- 8           (8)     Regulating the operation of bicycles, requiring them to be registered,  
9 and imposing a registration fee;
- 10          (9)     Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or specified types of  
11 vehicles at intersections;
- 12          (10)    Altering speed limits as provided in Title 21, Subtitle 8 of this article;
- 13          (11)    Regulating through truck traffic and prohibiting trucks from using  
14 any highway or alley that is not designated or maintained as a part or extension of  
15 the State or federal highway system, provided the local authority has designated an  
16 adequate alternate route for diverted truck traffic;
- 17          (12)    Adopting any other traffic regulations as specifically authorized in  
18 the Maryland Vehicle Law;
- 19          (13)    Regulating taxi stands, including taxi stands in the middle of a block;
- 20          (14)    (i)     Except in Garrett County, designating a certain portion of  
21 highways or roadways upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of  
22 gaining access to snowmobile trails which have been designated by the Department of  
23 Natural Resources. However, only those highways and roadways which divide  
24 snowmobile trails and which would otherwise obstruct direct access between  
25 snowmobile trails may be so designated; and
- 26               (ii)    In Garrett County, permitting a person to cross a highway or  
27 roadway on a snowmobile at a right angle, and designating a certain portion of  
28 highways or roadways upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of  
29 gaining access to snowmobile trails which have been designated by the Department of  
30 Natural Resources;
- 31          (15)    Requiring a minibike, as defined in § 15-112(a) of this article, to be  
32 registered, and imposing a registration fee; [and]
- 33          (16)    In Allegany County, designating crossings on county highways where  
34 a person operating a golf cart may cross the highway for continued access to any  
35 portion of a golf course; AND
- 36          (17)    RESTRICTING USE OF A LOW SPEED VEHICLE ON A HIGHWAY.

1 27-101.

2 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the  
3 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation:

4 (1) Is declared to be a felony by the Maryland Vehicle Law or by any  
5 other law of this State; or

6 (2) Is punishable by a civil penalty under the applicable provision of the  
7 Maryland Vehicle Law.

8 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a  
9 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is  
10 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 ~~October 1, 2005~~ January 1, 2006.