

Chapter 710

(House Bill 176)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts on county highways in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls may operate the golf cart only on certain county roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, ~~in consultation with the State Highway Administration,~~ to designate the county highways in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls on which a person may operate a golf cart; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Transportation
 Section 13–402(a)(1)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Transportation
 Section 13–402(c)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Transportation
 Section 21–104.3
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13-402.

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

(c) Registration under this subtitle is not required for:

(1) A vehicle that is driven on a highway:

(i) In conformity with the provisions of this title relating to manufacturers, transporters, dealers, secured parties, owners or operators of special mobile equipment, or nonresidents; or

(ii) Under a temporary registration card issued by the Administration;

(2) A vehicle owned and used by the United States, unless an authorized officer or employee of the United States requests registration of the vehicle;

(3) A farm tractor or any farm equipment;

(4) A vehicle the front or rear wheels of which are lifted from the highway;

(5) A towed vehicle that is attached to the towing vehicle by a tow bar and for which no driver is necessary;

(6) A vehicle owned by and in the possession of a licensed dealer for purpose of sale;

(7) A vehicle owned by a new resident of this State during the first 60 days of residency provided the vehicle displays valid registration issued by the jurisdiction of the resident's former domicile;

(8) New vehicles being operated as part of a shuttle, as defined in § 13-626 of this title, while following a registered vehicle displaying a shuttle permit issued by the Administration;

(9) A vehicle operated in connection with maritime commerce exclusively within any terminal owned or leased by the Maryland Port Administration;

(10) A snowmobile that is operated on highways and roadways as prescribed by § 25-102(a)(14) of this article;

(11) A golf cart that is operated on a highway on Smith Island, provided that the golf cart is equipped with lighting devices as required by the Administration if it is operated on a highway between dusk and dawn;

(12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in the City of Crisfield, Somerset County, in accordance with § 21-104.2 of this article;

(13) A GOLF CART THAT IS OPERATED ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY’S COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-104.3 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(14) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as allowed by the county under § 25-102(a)(16) of this article; or

~~[(14)]~~ (15) A vehicle owned by an accredited consular or diplomatic officer of a foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle displays a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government.

21-104.3.

(A) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY’S COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(13) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND

(III) IF THE GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

(2) SHALL KEEP THE GOLF CART AS FAR TO THE RIGHT OF THE ROADWAY AS FEASIBLE; AND

(3) SHALL POSSESS A VALID DRIVER’S LICENSE.

(B) THE ST. MARY’S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,~~ MAY DESIGNATE THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.