

Chapter 175

(Senate Bill 215)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Town of Vienna

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts in the Town of Vienna; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the Town of Vienna may operate the golf cart only on certain 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 highway in the Town of Vienna to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the ~~State Highway Administration, in consultation with the appropriate local authority, to develop locations where a person operating a golf cart may cross certain highways~~ town government to designate the highways on which a person may operate a golf cart in the Town of Vienna; making certain conforming changes; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the Town of Vienna.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(c) and ~~21–104.2~~ 21–104.3(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding toArticle – TransportationSection 21–104.4Annotated Code of Maryland(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 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, OR THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY,~~ in accordance with ~~§ 21-104.2~~ **§§ 21-104.2 THROUGH 21-104.4** 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

~~(15)~~ **(14)** 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.

~~21-104.2:~~

~~(a) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN:~~

~~(1) THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET COUNTY; AND~~

~~(2) THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY.~~

~~(B) A person who operates a golf cart on a highway [in the City of Crisfield, Somerset County,] without registration as authorized under § 13-402(c)(12) of this article:~~

~~(1) May operate the golf cart only:~~

~~(i) On a highway:~~

~~1. That is not designated or maintained as a part or an extension of the State or federal highway system; and~~

~~2. 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)] (C) The State Highway Administration, in consultation with [the City of Crisfield] THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITY, may designate [a location] LOCATIONS in the City of Crisfield OR THE TOWN OF VIENNA where a person operating a golf cart may cross, at a right angle, a highway that is designated or maintained as a part or an extension of the State or federal highway system.~~

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)] § 13-402(C)(12) 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.

21-104.4.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 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 TOWN GOVERNMENT MAY DESIGNATE THE HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF VIENNA ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.