

# HOUSE BILL 440

R4, R5  
HB 948/23 – ENT

4lr2387

---

By: **Charles County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2024

---

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Cobb Island**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for  
4 golf carts on Cobb Island in Charles County, subject to certain requirements; and  
5 generally relating to exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf  
6 carts on Cobb Island.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 13–402(a)(1)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 13–402(c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Transportation

19 Section 21–104.7

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Transportation**

4 13–402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (3) A farm tractor or any farm equipment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with § 21–104.2,  
7 § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, [or] § 21–104.6, **OR § 21–104.7** of this article;

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

10 (14) A vehicle owned by an accredited consular or diplomatic officer of a  
11 foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle displays  
12 a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government; or

13 (15) A personal delivery device that is operated on a roadway, sidewalk,  
14 shoulder, or crosswalk in accordance with § 21–104.5 of this article.

15 **21–104.7.**

16 **A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A HIGHWAY ON COBB ISLAND,**  
17 **CHARLES COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER §**  
18 **13–402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:**

19 **(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:**

20 **(I) ON A HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED**  
21 **LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 MILES PER HOUR;**

22 **(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND**

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

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

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

28 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July  
29 1, 2024.