

# HOUSE BILL 653

R4, R5

4lr1985

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By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements  
4 under certain circumstances for golf carts in certain areas in St. Mary's County;  
5 authorizing the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners to designate certain  
6 county highways on which a person may operate a golf cart; establishing certain  
7 requirements and limitations for the operation of golf carts in certain areas in St.  
8 Mary's County; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration  
9 requirements for golf carts in certain areas in St. Mary's County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Transportation  
12 Section 13–402(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Transportation  
17 Section 13–402(c)(12)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

20 BY adding to  
21 Article – Transportation  
22 Section 21–104.7  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Transportation**

2 13–402.

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

6 (2) If a motor vehicle required to be registered under this subtitle is not  
7 registered, a person may not park the unregistered motor vehicle on any:

8 (i) Public alley, street, or highway; or

9 (ii) Private property used by the public in general, including parking  
10 lots of shopping centers, condominiums, apartments, or town house developments.

11 (3) The provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection do not apply to a  
12 motor vehicle that is exempt from registration under this section or § 13–402.1 of this  
13 subtitle.

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

15 (12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with § 21–104.2,  
16 § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, [or] § 21–104.6, **OR § 21–104.7** of this article;

17 **21–104.7.**

18 (A) **THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS IN ST. MARY’S**  
19 **COUNTY:**

20 (1) **PINEY POINT;**

21 (2) **TALL TIMBERS;**

22 (3) **COLTON’S POINT;**

23 (4) **ST. CLEMENT’S SHORES;**

24 (5) **HOLLYWOOD SHORES;**

25 (6) **CLARKE’S LANDING;**

26 (7) **ST. GEORGE’S ISLAND;**

27 (8) **MILL POINT SHORES;**

- 1           **(9) LONGVIEW BEACH;**
- 2           **(10) RODO BEACH;**
- 3           **(11) SCOTLAND BEACH; AND**
- 4           **(12) HORSELANDING.**

5           **(B) THE ST. MARY’S COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY DESIGNATE**  
6 **ANY COUNTY HIGHWAY WHERE THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT**  
7 **EXCEED 30 MILES PER HOUR AS A HIGHWAY ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A**  
8 **GOLF CART WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF**  
9 **THIS ARTICLE.**

10           **(C) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A HIGHWAY DESIGNATED**  
11 **UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:**

- 12           **(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:**
  - 13                   **(I) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND**
  - 14                   **(II) IF THE GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES**  
15 **AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;**
- 16           **(2) SHALL KEEP THE GOLF CART AS FAR TO THE RIGHT OF THE**  
17 **ROADWAY AS FEASIBLE; AND**
- 18           **(3) SHALL POSSESS A VALID DRIVER’S LICENSE.**

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2024.