

# SENATE BILL 316

R4, R5

4r1542  
CF HB 43

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By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2024

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Authorization**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing counties and municipalities to designate county or  
4 municipal highways under their respective jurisdictions on which a person may  
5 operate a golf cart; repealing certain authorizations to operate golf carts on highways  
6 in certain local areas of the State; and generally relating to the operation of golf carts  
7 on highways.

8 BY repealing

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 21–104.2 through 21–104.4 and 21–104.6

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY renumbering

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 21–104.5

16 to be Section 21–104.3

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

20 Article – Transportation

21 Section 13–402(a)

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### 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 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – Transportation  
4 Section 13–402(c)  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

7 BY adding to  
8 Article – Transportation  
9 Section 21–104.2  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That Section(s) 21–104.3, 21–104.4, and 21–104.6 of Article – Transportation of the  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 21–104.5 of Article  
16 – Transportation of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s)  
17 21–104.3.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
19 as follows:

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 13–402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (12)] A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with §  
29 21–104.2[, § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, or § 21–104.6] of this article;

30 [(13)] (12) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as  
31 allowed by the county under § 25–102(a)(16) of this article;

1            [(14)] **(13)** A vehicle owned by an accredited consular or diplomatic officer  
 2 of a foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle  
 3 displays a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government; or

4            [(15)] **(14)** A personal delivery device that is operated on a roadway,  
 5 sidewalk, shoulder, or crosswalk in accordance with [§ 21–104.5] **§ 21–104.3** of this article.

6 **[21–104.2.**

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

9            (1) May operate the golf cart only:

10            (i) On a highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does  
 11 not exceed 30 miles per hour;

12            (ii) Between dawn and dusk; and

13            (iii) If the golf cart is equipped with lighting devices as required by  
 14 the Administration;

15            (2) Shall keep the golf cart as far to the right of the roadway as feasible;  
 16 and

17            (3) Shall possess a valid driver's license.]

18 **21–104.2.**

19            **(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO**  
 20 **OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY WITHOUT**  
 21 **REGISTRATION, AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13–402(C)(11) OF THIS ARTICLE:**

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

23            **(I) ON A HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED**  
 24 **LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED:**

25            **1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS ITEM, 30**  
 26 **MILES PER HOUR; OR**

27            **2. IN GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY'S**  
 28 **COUNTY, 35 MILES PER HOUR;**

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

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

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

5                   **(3) SHALL POSSESS A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

6                   **(B) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY DESIGNATE**  
7 **THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL HIGHWAYS UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS**  
8 **WITHIN THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF**  
9 **CART.**

10                   SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.