

# HOUSE BILL 1593

R4

8lr3062

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By: **Delegate Wood**

Introduced and read first time: March 3, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Low Speed Emergency Medical Services Vehicles – Operation in St. Mary’s**  
3 **County**

4 FOR the purpose of allowing the operation of a certain low speed emergency medical  
5 services vehicle on certain highways in St. Mary’s County designated in a  
6 certain manner without the vehicle being registered under the Maryland  
7 Vehicle Law; providing that the Maryland Vehicle Law does not preclude the  
8 designation of portions of certain highways in St. Mary’s County on which a low  
9 speed emergency medical services vehicle may travel; defining “low speed  
10 emergency medical services vehicle”; altering a certain definition; and generally  
11 relating to the operation of low speed emergency medical services vehicles on  
12 designated highways in St. Mary’s County.

13 BY renumbering

14 Article – Transportation  
15 Section 11–130.1  
16 to be Section 11–130.2  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Transportation  
21 Section 11–118, 13–402(c), and 25–102(a)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

25 Article – Transportation  
26 Section 11–130.1  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
 2 Article – Transportation  
 3 Section 13–402(a)  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 7 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 11–130.1 of Article – Transportation of the Annotated  
 8 Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 11–130.2.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
 10 read as follows:

11 **Article – Transportation**

12 11–118.

13 “Emergency vehicle” means any of the following vehicles that are designated by  
 14 the Administration as entitled to the exemptions and privileges set forth in the  
 15 Maryland Vehicle Law for emergency vehicles:

16 (1) Vehicles of federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies;

17 (2) Vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire  
 18 departments, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and  
 19 the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

20 (3) State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills;

21 (4) State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner  
 22 of Correction;

23 (5) Ambulances; [and]

24 (6) Special vehicles funded or provided by federal, State, or local  
 25 government and used for emergency or rescue purposes in this State; **AND**

26 (7) **LOW SPEED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLES.**

27 **11–130.1.**

28 **“LOW SPEED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLE” MEANS A**  
 29 **VEHICLE THAT:**

30 (1) **IS USED TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AT AN**  
 31 **OUTDOOR ACTIVITY OR SPORTING EVENT; AND**

- 1           **(2) HAS:**
- 2                   **(I) FOUR WHEELS;**
- 3                   **(II) A MAXIMUM SPEED CAPABILITY NOT EXCEEDING 35**  
4 **MILES PER HOUR;**
- 5                   **(III) SEATING FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE MEDICAL**  
6 **SERVICES PROVIDERS;**
- 7                   **(IV) STORAGE SPACE FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT; AND**
- 8                   **(V) A REAR AREA FOR A PATIENT COT.**

9 13-402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (8) New vehicles being operated as part of a shuttle, as defined in §  
14 13-626 of this title, while following a registered vehicle displaying a shuttle permit  
15 issued by the Administration;

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

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

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

23 (12) A golf cart which is operated on an Allegany County highway as  
24 allowed by the County under § 25-102(a)(16) of this article; [or]

25 (13) **A LOW SPEED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLE**  
26 **OPERATED ON A HIGHWAY IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY AS AUTHORIZED BY THE**  
27 **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY UNDER § 25-102(A)(17) OF**  
28 **THIS ARTICLE; OR**

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

32 25-102.

1 (a) The provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law do not prevent a local  
2 authority, in the reasonable exercise of its police power, from exercising the following  
3 powers as to highways under its jurisdiction:

4 (1) Subject to the provisions of § 21–1003.1 of this article, regulating  
5 or prohibiting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles;

6 (2) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or traffic control  
7 devices;

8 (3) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblies on highways;

9 (4) Designating particular highways or separate roadways as one-way  
10 highways and requiring that all vehicles on them move in one specified direction;

11 (5) Regulating the speed and weight of vehicles in public parks;

12 (6) Designating any highway as a through highway or designating any  
13 intersection as a stop intersection or a yield intersection;

14 (7) Restricting the use of highways as provided in Title 24 of this  
15 article;

16 (8) Regulating the operation of bicycles, requiring them to be  
17 registered, and imposing a registration fee;

18 (9) Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or specified types  
19 of vehicles at intersections;

20 (10) Altering speed limits as provided in Title 21, Subtitle 8 of this  
21 article;

22 (11) Regulating through truck traffic and prohibiting trucks from using  
23 any highway or alley that is not designated or maintained as a part or extension of the  
24 State or federal highway system, provided the local authority has designated an  
25 adequate alternate route for diverted truck traffic;

26 (12) Adopting any other traffic regulations as specifically authorized in  
27 the Maryland Vehicle Law;

28 (13) Regulating taxi stands, including taxi stands in the middle of a  
29 block;

30 (14) (i) Except in Garrett County, designating a certain portion of  
31 highways or roadways upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of  
32 gaining access to snowmobile trails which have been designated by the Department of  
33 Natural Resources. However, only those highways and roadways which divide

1 snowmobile trails and which would otherwise obstruct direct access between  
2 snowmobile trails may be so designated; and

3 (ii) In Garrett County, permitting a person to cross a highway  
4 or roadway on a snowmobile at a right angle, and designating a certain portion of  
5 highways or roadways upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of  
6 gaining access to snowmobile trails which have been designated by the Department of  
7 Natural Resources;

8 (15) Requiring a motorized minibike to be permitted by the local  
9 authority, and imposing a permit fee;

10 (16) In Allegany County, designating crossings on county highways  
11 where a person operating a golf cart may cross the highway for continued access to any  
12 portion of a golf course; [and]

13 (17) **IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, DESIGNATING A CERTAIN PORTION**  
14 **OF A COUNTY HIGHWAY OR, SUBJECT TO STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
15 **APPROVAL, A STATE HIGHWAY ON WHICH A LOW SPEED EMERGENCY MEDICAL**  
16 **SERVICES VEHICLE MAY TRAVEL; AND**

17 (18) Restricting use of a low speed vehicle on a highway.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 July 1, 2008.