

HOUSE BILL 371

R7

9lr1853
CF 9lr1862

By: **Charles County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles - Low Speed Vehicle - Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the defined term “low speed vehicle” to include a
4 qualifying nonelectric vehicle; and generally relating to low speed vehicles.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Transportation
7 Section 11–130.1
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 21–1125, 22–101(e), 23–104, and 25–102(a)(17)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 11–130.1.

19 “Low speed vehicle” means a four–wheeled [electric] vehicle that has a
20 maximum speed capability that exceeds 20 miles per hour but is less than 25 miles per
21 hour.

22 21–1125.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a person may not drive a low
2 speed vehicle:

3 (1) On a highway for which the posted maximum speed limit exceeds
4 30 miles per hour;

5 (2) On an expressway or another controlled access highway that is
6 signed in accordance with § 21–313 of this title;

7 (3) On a highway on which driving a low speed vehicle is prohibited by
8 a county or municipal ordinance; or

9 (4) Across a highway for which the posted maximum speed limit
10 exceeds 45 miles per hour, except at an intersection that is controlled by:

11 (i) A traffic control signal; or

12 (ii) A stop sign at each approach to the intersection.

13 22–101.

14 (e) (1) The provisions of this title with respect to equipment on vehicles do
15 not apply to farm equipment, road machinery, road rollers, or farm tractors, except as
16 made applicable in this title.

17 (2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, this title does
18 not apply to low speed vehicles.

19 (ii) 1. A low speed vehicle shall comply with federal
20 standards under 49 C.F.R. 571.500.

21 2. The Administration may adopt regulations that
22 require equipment for low speed vehicles in addition to equipment required under
23 federal law.

24 23–104.

25 (a) Every vehicle driven on the highways in this State shall, where
26 applicable, have the following equipment, meeting or exceeding the standards
27 established jointly by the Administration and the Division: brakes, steering,
28 suspension, horn, door handles, mirrors, tires, exhaust system, lights, glazing,
29 windshield wipers, odometer, speedometer, bumpers, properly aligned wheels, wheels
30 and wheel lugs, fenders, floor pans, hood, hood catches, emissions equipment, fuel
31 system, front seat, motor mounts, gear selection indicator for automatic transmissions,
32 universal joints, and seat belts or combination seat belt–shoulder harness if required
33 as original equipment under § 22–412 or § 22–412.1 of this article.

1 (b) (1) The Administration and the Division jointly may establish
2 standards by rule or regulation for this equipment.

3 (2) The Administration and the Division shall adopt, consistent with
4 federal law, regulations establishing equipment, performance, and other technical
5 standards for low speed vehicles.

6 25-102.

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

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

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2009.