

## Chapter 406

(House Bill 924)

AN ACT concerning

### Vehicle Laws – Local Authority – Use of Highways by Snowmobiles

FOR the purpose of altering the authority of local jurisdictions to designate a portion of a highway for snowmobile use to facilitate access between trails by repealing the requirement that the snowmobile trails accessed be designated by the Department of Natural Resources; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the authority of local jurisdictions over the use of highways by snowmobiles.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 25–102(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

#### Article – Transportation

25–102.

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

- (1) Subject to the provisions of § 21–1003.1 of this article, regulating or prohibiting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles;
- (2) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or traffic control devices;
- (3) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblies on highways;
- (4) Designating particular highways or separate roadways as one–way highways and requiring that all vehicles on them move in one specified direction;
- (5) Regulating the speed and weight of vehicles in public parks;

- (6) Designating any highway as a through highway or designating any intersection as a stop intersection or a yield intersection;
- (7) Restricting the use of highways as provided in Title 24 of this article;
- (8) Regulating the operation of bicycles, requiring them to be registered, and imposing a registration fee;
- (9) Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or specified types of vehicles at intersections;
- (10) Altering speed limits as provided in Title 21, Subtitle 8 of this article;
- (11) Regulating through truck traffic and prohibiting trucks from using any highway or alley that is not designated or maintained as a part or extension of the State or federal highway system, provided the local authority has designated an adequate alternate route for diverted truck traffic;
- (12) Adopting any other traffic regulations as specifically authorized in the Maryland Vehicle Law;
- (13) Regulating taxi stands, including taxi stands in the middle of a block;
- (14) (i) Except in Garrett County, designating a certain portion of highways [or roadways] upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of gaining access to snowmobile trails [which have been designated by the Department of Natural Resources]. However, only those highways [and roadways] which divide snowmobile trails and which would otherwise obstruct direct access between snowmobile trails may be so designated **BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**; and
- (ii) In Garrett County, permitting a person to cross a highway [or roadway] on a snowmobile at a right angle, and designating a certain portion of highways [or roadways] upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of gaining access to snowmobile trails [which have been designated by the Department of Natural Resources];
- (15) Requiring a motorized minibike to be permitted by the local authority, and imposing a permit fee;
- (16) In Allegany County, designating crossings on county highways where a person operating a golf cart may cross the highway for continued access to any portion of a golf course; and

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

**Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.**