

HOUSE BILL 43

R4, R5

(PRE-FILED)

4r0948
CF SB 316

By: ~~Delegate Stewart~~ Delegates Stewart, Allen, Boyce, Davis, Guyton, Jacobs, Lehman, J. Long, Love, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, and Stein

Requested: October 12, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 21, 2024

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

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 Section 13–402(a)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
5 Article – Transportation
6 Section 13–402(c)
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–104.2
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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16 Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 21–104.5 of Article
18 – Transportation of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s)
19 21–104.3.

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

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 13–402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (12)] A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with §
30 21–104.2[, § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, or § 21–104.6] of this article;

31 [(13)] (12) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as
32 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) 1. BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK;~~AND~~**

1 ~~(H)~~ ~~IF~~, IF THE GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING
2 DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; OR

3 2. AT ALL TIMES OF THE DAY, IF THE GOLF CART IS
4 EQUIPPED WITH HEADLIGHTS, TAIL LIGHTS, AND BRAKE LIGHTS APPROVED BY THE
5 ADMINISTRATION AND ANY OTHER LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE
6 ADMINISTRATION; AND

7 (III) IF THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS DOES NOT EXCEED THE
8 NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE GOLF CART;

9 (2) SHALL KEEP THE GOLF CART AS FAR TO THE RIGHT OF THE
10 ROADWAY AS FEASIBLE; AND

11 (3) SHALL POSSESS A VALID DRIVER’S LICENSE.

12 (B) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY DESIGNATE
13 THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL HIGHWAYS UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS
14 WITHIN THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF
15 CART.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.