

003 LOS HB 653 CSMC signed.pdf

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Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

House Bill 653
St. Mary's County - Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts
SUPPORT

January 30, 2024

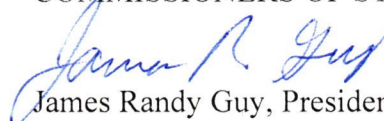
Delegate Marc Korman, Chairman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Korman:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT House Bill 653 - St. Mary's County - Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts** which is being heard in the Environment and Transportation Committee.

We support HB 653 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2024/003

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

LTR to JP Comm and E&T Comm transmitting report pu

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Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY



James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

November 28, 2023

The Honorable William C Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401


RE: HB 219/Ch. 609, 2023 (MSAR # 14834)

Dear Chairman Williams and Chairman Korman:

Enclosed please find the report recommending and describing areas of St. Mary's County that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County consider appropriate for the operation of golf carts on public highways as required by House Bill 219, Chapter 609, 2023 (MSAR #14834)– Golf Carts on Public Highways - which was passed during the 2023 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

We would appreciate the introduction of legislation permitting the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to designate by subsequent resolution the roads and recommended areas on which it would be legal to operate golf carts. We believe such legislation would benefit our citizens. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY



Eric S. Colvin, Vice-President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2023/226

Cc: President Bill Ferguson
Speaker Adrienne A. Jones
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)
Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate Matt Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner President James Randy Guy
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Report Pursuant to HB 219 Ch 609, 2023 MSAR# 14834

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

**REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
RECOMMENDING AREAS SUITABLE FOR
THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON
PUBLIC HIGHWAYS**

PURSUANT TO HB 219/Ch. 609, 2023 (MSAR # 14834)



By: The Commissioners of St. Mary's County

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted pursuant to House Bill 219 – St. Mary’s County – Golf Carts on Public Highways – Report, enacted into law as Chapter 609 of the Acts of 2023. HB 219/CH 609 charges the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County with submitting, on or before December 1, 2023, a report to the General Assembly “recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary’s County that the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to the standards established in this section.” This document, together with its appendices and exhibits, is offered as that report. Included below as forewords to the Commissioners’ recommendations, for added context, are summaries of HB 219/CH 609, the legislative history of HB 219, and previously enacted legislation of similar scope allowing the operation of golf carts on certain public highways in other communities of the State.

SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 219 / CHAPTER 609

House Bill 219/Chapter 609 (“HB 219”) requires the Commissioners to submit a report to designated committees of the General Assembly recommending and describing areas in the County the Commissioners believe are appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways. Per Paragraph (b) of HB 219, an “appropriate area” shall:

- (1) be an isolated area on an island or peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;
- (2) have available significant public docking facilities or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;
- (3) be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;
- (4) have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and,
- (5) preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

The report is due on or before December 1, 2023 and shall be delivered to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the St. Mary’s County Delegation to the General Assembly. Per State Government Article § 2-1257, five copies of the report shall be submitted to the library of the Department of Legislative Services and one copy each shall be furnished to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. Distribution approval shall be attained from the chair of each committee before any distribution to individual committee members.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

As first filed HB 219 would have authorized the Commissioners to allow the operation of golf carts on any county-owned road in St. Mary's County, provided the posted speed limit of the road did not exceed thirty-five (35) miles per hour. Also included were conditions that golf carts could only be operable on authorized roads from dawn to dusk, that the golf cart be equipped with any lighting devices as may be required by the Motor Vehicle Administration ("MVA"), that operators shall keep the golf cart as far to the right of a road as possible, and that any operator of a golf cart must possess a valid driver's license. Bills with identical language were introduced in 2021 (HB 475) and 2022 (HB 863) but failed to advance.

HB 219, as passed, charges the Commissioners with making this report and contains no changes to existing law in and of itself. Compared to the authorization the original draft of HB 219 would have conferred on the Commissioners, the areas and communities identified in this report will comprise an aggregate area much smaller than the County as a whole. If the General Assembly introduces and passes enacting legislation as requested by this report the Commissioners of St. Mary's County would possess similar local authority as has already been granted to certain other counties, as detailed below.

COMPARABLE ENACTED LEGISLATION

Generally, any motor vehicle must be registered with the MVA before it can be driven on a highway. Through legislation the General Assembly has exempted this requirement¹ in the following communities:

- Smith Island, in Somerset County (Transportation Article § 13-402(c)(11); enacted 1992)
- Crisfield, in Somerset County (Transportation Article § 21-104.2; enacted 2016)
- Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, in St. Mary's County (Transportation Article § 21-104.3; enacted 2017)
- Vienna, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.4; enacted 2018)
- Upper Hoopers Island, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.6; enacted 2022)
- Middle Hoopers Island, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.6; enacted 2022)
- Taylors Island, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.6; enacted 2022)

Common to the exemptions above are the following provisions: that golf carts may only be operated on a county highway on which the posted speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour,

¹¹ Exemptions elsewhere for the operation of unregistered all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles in certain circumstances. Transportation § 25-102(a)(14). In Allegany County, an exemption exists allowing golf carts to traverse state roads for continued access to any portion of a golf course. Transportation § 25-102(a)(16).

that golf carts may only be operated between dawn and dusk, that any golf carts must be equipped with lighting devices as required by the MVA, that golf carts shall be kept as far to the right of the roadway as feasible, that any operators of a golf cart must possess a valid driver's license, and that the local governing body must designate by resolution specific county highways within each community that golf carts may be operated upon.

The communities targeted by existing legislation are diverse. Some, such as Crisfield and Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, are comprised of relatively densely populated environs; others, such as Hoopers Islands, are sparsely populated. The magnitude of public and private amenities offered in each varies. On balance and as stated previously, the Commissioners feel the communities in St. Mary's County identified below are of similar nature and character as these other communities.

AREAS RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATE FOR OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS

All maps provided are taken directly from the County's publicly available Geographic Information System ("GIS") (accessible at <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/it/gis/>). A special layer has been imposed identifying county-owned roads in each community, with roads highlighted according to the following legend:

40 MPH Speed Limit



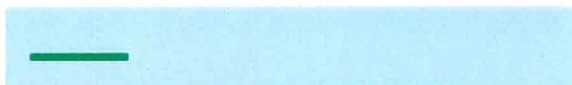
35 MPH Speed Limit



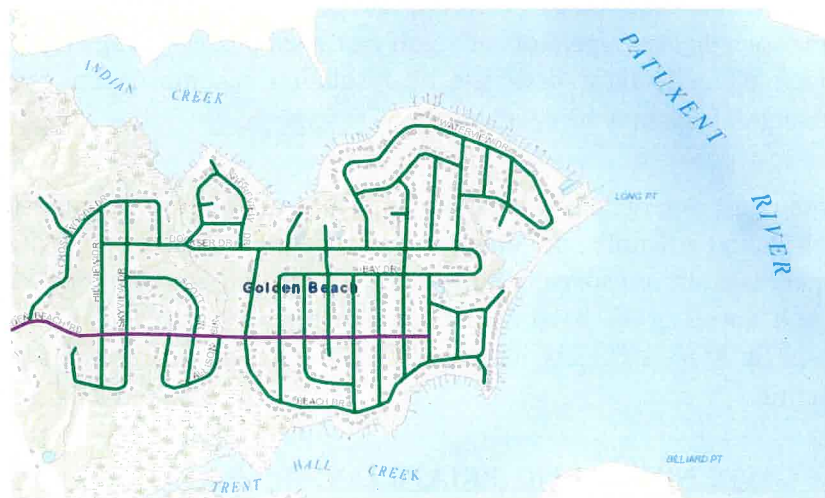
30 MPH Speed Limit



25 MPH Speed Limit

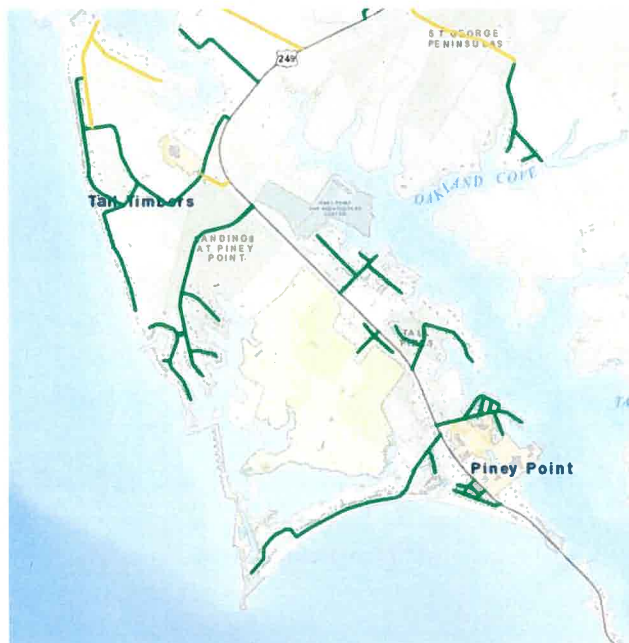


GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS



Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls is a long-established residential subdivision first platted in 1955 and built out over the next two decades. A peninsula bounded by Indian Creek and Trent Hall Creek, both tributaries of the Patuxent River, it is a viable location for recreational boating. Most waterfront lots have private piers and community associations provide for community boat ramps, piers, and beaches. Golf carts were authorized in Golden Beach by Ch 710 of the Acts of 2017, which allowed the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works to designate county highways in Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls on which a person may operate a golf cart, as codified in Md. Transportation Article § 21-104.3. The Commissioners ask no changes be made to this law at this time.

PINEY POINT & TALL TIMBERS



Piney Point and neighboring Tall Timbers are unincorporated waterfront communities bounded by

water on all sides. The area borders the Potomac River to the west and south, St. George Creek to the east and northeast, and Herring Creek to the north. A gullet of land a third of a mile wide between Herring Creek and St. George's Creek connects the area to the rest of St. Mary's County, and a short bridge connects Piney Point to St. George's Island in the southeast. While Piney Point was once a major summer destination for visitors and dignitaries from Washington, today Piney Point – which includes the communities of Potomac Beach and Lighthouse Road, Piney Point Shores, St. George's Beach, the Landings, and other small subdivisions – comprises many single-family homes that enjoy year-round and seasonal use. Amenities available to residents and guests include the Piney Point public boat landing and pier, the county-owned Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park (including the Piney Point Light, constructed in 1836), the Tall Timbers Marina, and other local restaurants and recreational facilities. The area is dotted with numerous private piers and beaches. The majority of roads in the community are county-owned or privately maintained and do not have speed limits greater than 25 miles per hour, as shown on the map above.

COLTON'S POINT



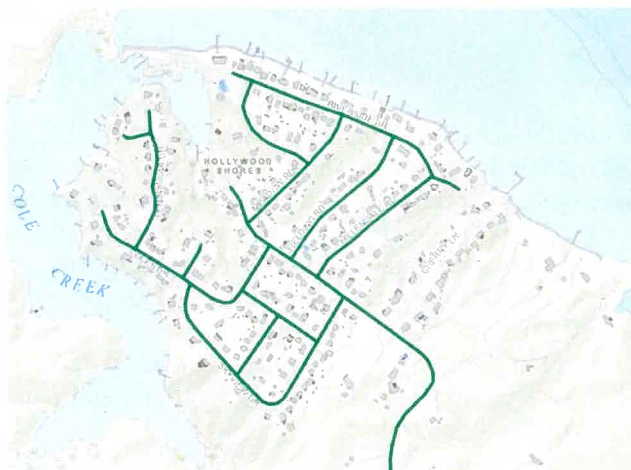
Colton's Point lies directly across St. Clement's Bay from St. Clement's Island, site of the first colonial landing in Maryland on March 25, 1634. Today, Colton's Point is a residential community whose location on the Potomac River make it a prime destination for tourism and the boating public during season. Amenities include the St. Clement's Island Museum, a large public pier immediately adjacent the museum, the nearby state parks at St. Clement's Island and Newtowne Neck, the Blackistone Island Lighthouse on St. Clement's Island, and Potomac Gardens, a food service and entertainment establishment in mainland Colton's Point. A water taxi between St. Clement's Island Museum and the north pier on St. Clement's Island runs daily during the months between March and October; the only other means of accessing the island is by private boat. State Route 242 terminates at the intersection of Point Breeze Road and Windy Lane, and all other major public roads in the community are county-owned.

ST. CLEMENT'S SHORES



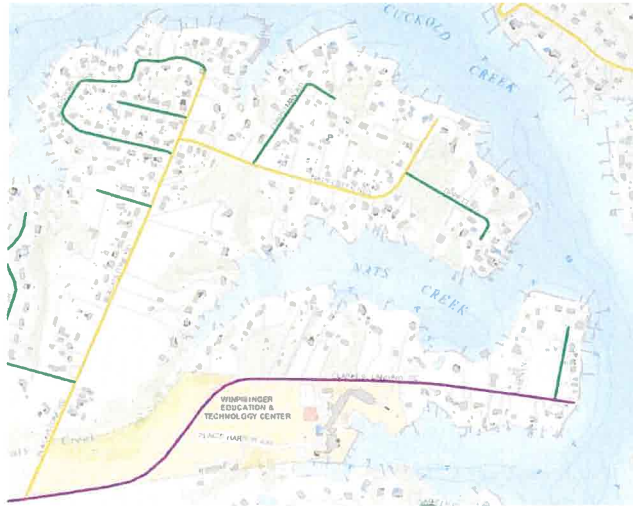
Four-and-a-half miles, as the crow flies, across St. Clement's Bay from Colton's Point lies the community known as St. Clement's Shores. The community contains a multitude of private piers, as well as a large pier owned by the St. Clement's Shores Civic Association. Nearby amenities include St. Clement's Shores Park, and the community is within easy boating distance of the amenities at Colton's Point, as well as Fitzie's Marina and Restaurant in Compton. All significant roads within St. Clement's Shores and its immediate environs are owned by the County and carry a maximum speed limit below 30 miles per hour.

HOLLYWOOD SHORES



Bordering the Patuxent River on the north and Cole Creek on the west, Hollywood Shores is located in the rough midpoint of St. Mary's County Patuxent River shoreline. The Patuxent River, which separates St. Mary's County from Calvert County, is a major recreational venue for boating. Hollywood Shores' local amenities include a pool and boat launch owned by the community's civic association and contains numerous private piers.

CLARKE'S LANDING



The area identified as Clarke's Landing in this report centers on the eponymous Clarke's Landing, a well-known seafood restaurant containing a public boat landing and floating dock. Paved parking is provided for land borne visitors. The greater area consists of single-family homes served by county-owned roads, most of which have maximum speed limits of 25 miles per hour. The area is bounded by Cuckold Creek and Nats Creek, both of which are tributaries of the Patuxent River. Other amenities in the greater area include Myrtle Point Park to the immediate southeast and the Winpisinger Education & Technology Center, a training center for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers ("IAM").

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND



Immediately southeast of Piney Point and Tall Timbers, St. George's Island is located in the Potomac River. Its only static mainland connection is a bridge between the island and Piney Point. Primarily served by State Route 249, state ownership of the road terminates at the island's rough midpoint, and county roads service the remainder of the island. Nearly every waterfront parcel on the island has its own pier, and its immediate proximity to Piney Point gives boaters easy access to the same amenities.

MILL POINT SHORES



Mill Point Shores, which borders Choptico Bay and the Wicomico River, a tributary of the Potomac, formed in the early twentieth century. Originally created by and for the region's African-American population, it began as a private waterfront community comprised of summer cottages and was meant to provide recreational opportunities for that underserved population. The seasonal nature of the community declined over successive decades and Mill Point Shores is now dominated by all-year residences and many parcels in the community are owned by descendants of the original owners. Most every waterfront lot contains a private pier, and the local Mill Point Improvement Association provides a community clubhouse, beach, and boat ramp. All roads in the community are privately maintained by the residents; one additional salutary benefit of allowing golf carts on these roadways is the reduced strain on the wear and tear of these roads.

LONGVIEW BEACH



Longview Beach, bordering Mill Creek and the Wicomico River, lies less than three miles south of

Millpoint Shores and shares its same history and qualities. Originally intended to be a community of summer cottages, most of Longview Beach's residents are now year-round inhabitants. A community clubhouse, beach, and other amenities are provided by the Long View Beach Club Association. As in Mill Point shores, all roads are privately maintained and stand to gain the same benefit of reduced wear and tear if golf cart use is sanctioned.

RODO BEACH & SCOTLAND BEACH



Rodo Beach and Scotland Beach are small, isolated areas in the County's south; bounded by Tanner Creek on the south, Long Neck Creek on the north, and the Chesapeake Bay on the east, the community's immediate proximity to the confluence of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay make it a prime location for the general boating public. Immediately south of the community lies Point Lookout State Park, which includes the Point Lookout Lighthouse, public fishing pier, campground, boat launch, canoe, and other amenities included as part of the state park. Amenities directly within the community include Scotland Yard Beach Rentals.

Horselanding



Horselanding is a small residential community bounded by Spring Creek, Coatigan Run, and the Patuxent River. Rural and isolated, its predominant landmark is Drift Inn, the oldest crab house in St. Mary's County. First opened in 1946 it remains family-operated today and is a destination for both local residents and recreational boaters. A large pier provides access to the boating public and connections further inland are provided by Delabrooke Road, Riverview Road, Horse Landing Road, and Old Horse Landing Road.

CONCLUSION

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County believe the areas identified above satisfy the criteria for public highways appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts. Accordingly, the Commissioners respectfully ask the General Assembly to consider enacting legislation this year giving the Commissioners authority to designate, by local resolution, county-owned highways in each of the recommended areas on which it will be legal to operate golf carts. The Commissioners ask that the legislation have the same restrictions and conditions customary to similar legislation enacted in recent years: that only public highways with posted speed limits of thirty (30) miles per hour or less be eligible, and that golf carts may only be operated on those roads from dawn to dusk, as far to the right of a roadway as is feasible, and only by those possessing a valid driver's license.

We thank the General Assembly for the opportunity to present this report and for the legislature's consideration of this matter, which remains of great interest to our County.

Date: 11/28/2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Colvin", written over a horizontal line.

Eric Colvin
Vice-President,
Commissioners of St. Mary's County

APPENDIX

Chapter 609

(House Bill 219)

AN ACT concerning

**St. Mary's County – ~~Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts on~~
Public Highways – Report**

FOR the purpose of ~~creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in St. Mary's County; authorizing the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners, subject to a certain limitation, to designate the county highways on which a person may operate a golf cart; establishing certain requirements and limitations for the operation of golf carts in St. Mary's County~~ requiring the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners to produce a report recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary's County that the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to certain standards; requiring the County Board to submit the report to certain entities of the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to an ~~exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts on public highways in St. Mary's County.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13 – 402(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13 – 402(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 21 – 104.7
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

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

(a) The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners shall produce a report recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary's County that the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to the standards established in this section.

(b) An area appropriate for the operation of golf carts on public highways shall:

(1) be an isolated area on an island or a peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;

(2) have available significant public docking facilities or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;

(3) be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;

(4) have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and

(5) preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

(c) The report required under this section shall include a detailed map of any areas the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, including a delineation of all public highways contained within the area.

(d) By December 1, 2023, the County Board shall submit the report, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to:

(1) the House Environment and Transportation Committee;

(2) the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee; and

(3) the St. Mary's County Delegation to the General Assembly.

~~Article — Transportation~~

~~13-402.~~

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

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

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

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

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

~~(e) Registration under this subtitle is not required for:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with § 21-104.2, § 21-104.3, § 21-104.4, [or] § 21-104.6, OR § 21-104.7 of this article;~~

~~(13) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as allowed by the county under § 25-102(a)(16) of this article;~~

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

~~(15) A personal delivery device that is operated on a roadway, sidewalk, shoulder, or crosswalk in accordance with § 21-104.5 of this article.~~

~~21-104.7.~~

~~(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IN GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, FOR WHICH THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS IS GOVERNED UNDER § 21-104.3 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~(B) THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY DESIGNATE ANY COUNTY HIGHWAY WHERE THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR AS A HIGHWAY ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(C) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A HIGHWAY DESIGNATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:~~

~~(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY;~~

~~(I) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND~~

~~(II) IF THE GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;~~

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

~~(3) MUST POSSESS A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 219

(St. Mary's County Delegation*)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

St. Mary's County - Golf Carts on Public Highways - Report

This bill requires the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners to produce a report recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary's County that the board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to specified standards. The report must include a detailed map of any areas the board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, including a delineation of all public highways contained within the area. By December 1, 2023, the board must submit the report to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the St. Mary's County Delegation to the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners can produce and submit the required report with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An area appropriate for the operation of golf carts on public highways must:

- be an isolated area on an island or a peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;
- have available significant public or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;
- be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;
- have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and
- preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

Current Law: Each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven on a highway must be registered. Certain motor vehicles are exempt from this requirement, including:

- certain snowmobiles in Allegany and Garrett counties; and
- certain golf carts in Allegany County, on Smith Island, in the City of Crisfield in Somerset County, in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County, in the Town of Vienna in Dorchester County, and on Hoopers Island and Taylors Island.

A "motor vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that, unless otherwise specifically exempted, is self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from overhead electrical wires and not operated on rails. Certain vehicles, such as low-speed vehicles, bicycles, and motor scooters, are restricted to certain highways based on the maximum posted speed limit; they may be subject to different rules of the road than passenger cars and trucks.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
km/lgc

First Reader - February 14, 2023

Third Reader - March 28, 2023

Revised - Amendment(s) - March 28, 2023

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510

(4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in rate and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as and when due and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years after the date of issue of the bonds.

(5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County and the Foundation for Working Families, Inc. of Montgomery County shall provide a matching fund. No part of an applicant's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of ~~real property, in kind contributions, or~~ funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. UP TO \$150,000 OF THE FUND MAY CONSIST OF REAL PROPERTY OR IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, THE DOLLAR VALUE OF WHICH SHALL BE DOCUMENTED TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County and the Foundation for Working Families, Inc. of Montgomery County has until June 1, ~~1993~~ 1994, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1992.

Approved May 12, 1992.

CHAPTER 258

(Senate Bill 491)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Registration Requirements – Exception

FOR the purpose of exempting golf carts operated on highways on Smith Island, Somerset County, from registration requirements generally applicable to vehicles operated on highways in the State; requiring a golf cart that is operated on a highway between dusk and dawn to be equipped with certain lighting devices; and generally relating to registration requirements for motor vehicles.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13-402(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Transportation

Section 13-402(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

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

Article - Transportation

13-402.

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Except as otherwise expressly authorized in this title, the Administration may not register or renew the registration of a vehicle unless the Administration has issued to the owner a certificate of title of the vehicle or has received an application for the certificate of title.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A farm tractor or any farm equipment;

- (4) A vehicle the front or rear wheels of which are lifted from the highway;
- (5) A towed vehicle that is attached to the towing vehicle by a tow bar and for which no driver is necessary;
- (6) A vehicle owned by and in the possession of a licensed dealer for purpose of sale;
- (7) A vehicle owned by a new resident of this State during the first 30 days of his residency provided the vehicle displays valid registration issued by the jurisdiction of his former domicile;
- (8) New vehicles displaying a shuttle permit issued by the Administration;
- (9) A vehicle operated in connection with maritime commerce exclusively within any terminal owned or leased by the Maryland Port Administration;
- (10) A snowmobile which is operated on highways and roadways as prescribed by § 25-102(a)(14) of this article; [or]
- (11) A GOLF CART WHICH IS OPERATED ON ~~HIGHWAYS~~ A HIGHWAY ON SMITH ISLAND, PROVIDED THAT THE GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IF IT IS OPERATED ON A HIGHWAY BETWEEN DUSK AND DAWN; OR
- (12) A vehicle owned by an accredited consular or diplomatic officer of a foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle displays a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.

Approved May 12, 1992.

CHAPTER 259

(Senate Bill 501)

AN ACT concerning

Garrett County - Hotel Rental Tax

FOR the purpose of increasing the hotel rental tax rate that Garrett County may impose on certain charges paid to certain hotels located in the County; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the hotel rental tax in Garrett County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 9-304

Chapter 257

(House Bill 253)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – City of Crisfield

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts in the City of Crisfield; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the City of Crisfield may operate the golf cart only on certain roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the City of Crisfield to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the State Highway Administration, in consultation with the City of Crisfield, to develop a location in the City of Crisfield where a person operating a golf cart may cross over a certain highway; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the City of Crisfield.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 21–104.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13–402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A farm tractor or any farm equipment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(12) A GOLF CART THAT IS OPERATED ON A HIGHWAY IN THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-104.2 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(13) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as allowed by the county under § 25-102(a)(16) of this article; or

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

21-104.2.

(A) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A HIGHWAY IN THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A HIGHWAY ~~ON~~:

1. THAT IS NOT DESIGNATED OR MAINTAINED AS A PART OR AN EXTENSION OF THE STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM; AND

2. ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND

(III) IF THE GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; ~~AND~~

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

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

(B) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, MAY DESIGNATE A LOCATION IN THE CITY OF CRISFIELD WHERE A PERSON OPERATING A GOLF CART MAY CROSS, AT A RIGHT ANGLE, A HIGHWAY THAT IS DESIGNATED OR MAINTAINED AS A PART OR AN EXTENSION OF THE STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, April 26, 2016.

Chapter 710

(House Bill 176)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts on county highways in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls may operate the golf cart only on certain county roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, ~~in consultation with the State Highway Administration,~~ to designate the county highways in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls on which a person may operate a golf cart; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 21–104.3
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13-402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A farm tractor or any farm equipment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in the City of Crisfield, Somerset County, in accordance with § 21-104.2 of this article;

(13) A GOLF CART THAT IS OPERATED ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-104.3 OF THIS ARTICLE;

(14) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as allowed by the county under § 25-102(a)(16) of this article; or

~~[(14)]~~ (15) A vehicle owned by an accredited consular or diplomatic officer of a foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle displays a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government.

21-104.3.

(A) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(13) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND

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

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

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

(B) THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,~~ MAY DESIGNATE THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.

Chapter 174

(House Bill 330)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Town of Vienna

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts in the Town of Vienna; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the Town of Vienna may operate the golf cart only on certain roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the Town of Vienna to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the ~~State Highway Administration, in consultation with the appropriate local authority, to develop locations where a person operating a golf cart may cross certain highways~~ town government to designate the highways on which a person may operate a golf cart in the Town of Vienna; making certain conforming changes; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the Town of Vienna.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(c) and ~~21–104.2~~ 21–104.3(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 21–104.4
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13–402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A farm tractor or any farm equipment;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway ~~in the City of Crisfield, Somerset County, OR THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY,~~ in accordance with ~~§ 21-104.2~~ §§ 21-104.2 THROUGH 21-104.4 of this article;

(13) ~~A golf cart that is operated on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County, in accordance with § 21-104.3 of this article;~~

(14) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as allowed by the county under § 25-102(a)(16) of this article; or

~~(15)~~ (14) A vehicle owned by an accredited consular or diplomatic officer of a foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle displays a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government.

~~21-104.2.~~

(a) ~~THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN:~~

(1) ~~THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET COUNTY; AND~~

(2) ~~THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY.~~

(B) ~~A person who operates a golf cart on a highway [in the City of Crisfield, Somerset County,] without registration as authorized under § 13-402(e)(12) of this article:~~

(1) ~~May operate the golf cart only:~~

(i) ~~On a highway:~~

~~1. That is not designated or maintained as a part or an extension of the State or federal highway system; and~~

~~2. On which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour;~~

(ii) ~~Between dawn and dusk; and~~

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

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

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

~~[(b)] (C) The State Highway Administration, in consultation with [the City of Crisfield] THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITY, may designate [a location] LOCATIONS in the City of Crisfield OR THE TOWN OF VIENNA where a person operating a golf cart may cross, at a right angle, a highway that is designated or maintained as a part or an extension of the State or federal highway system.~~

21-104.3.

(a) A person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County, without registration as authorized under [§ 13-402(c)(13)] § 13-402(C)(12) of this article:

(1) May operate the golf cart only:

(i) On a county highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour;

(ii) Between dawn and dusk; and

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

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

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

21-104.4.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND

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

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

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

(B) THE TOWN GOVERNMENT MAY DESIGNATE THE HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF VIENNA ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.

Chapter 387

(House Bill 193)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for ~~Electric~~ Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Taylors Island

FOR the purpose of creating an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for ~~electric~~ golf carts on Upper Hoopers Island, Middle Hoopers Island, and Taylors Island, subject to certain requirements and conditions; authorizing the County Council of Dorchester County to designate county highways on which a person may operate ~~a an electric a~~ golf cart on Upper Hoopers Island, Middle Hoopers Island, or Taylors Island; and generally relating to exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for ~~electric~~ golf carts.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–402(c)(12)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 21–104.6
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13–402.

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

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

(12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with [§§ 21-104.2 through 21-104.4] **§ 21-104.2, § 21-104.3, § 21-104.4, OR § 21-104.6** of this article;

21-104.6.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO OPERATES ~~A AN ELECTRIC~~ A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY ON UPPER HOOPERS ISLAND, MIDDLE HOOPERS ISLAND, OR TAYLORS ISLAND, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE ~~ELECTRIC~~ GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND

(III) IF THE ~~ELECTRIC~~ GOLF CART IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

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

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

(B) THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MAY DESIGNATE BY RESOLUTION THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS ON UPPER HOOPERS ISLAND, MIDDLE HOOPERS ISLAND, OR TAYLORS ISLAND ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE ~~A AN ELECTRIC~~ A GOLF CART.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.

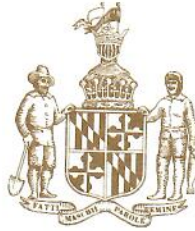
HB 653 LOS St. Marys Delegation.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV

TODD B. MORGAN
CHAIR

BRIAN M. CROSBY
MATT MORGAN



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB653 St. Mary's County - Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts

Dear Chair Korman

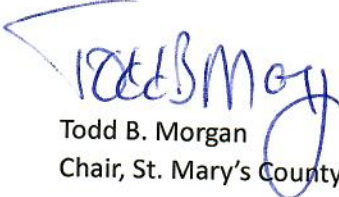
The St. Mary's County Delegation unanimously supports HB653 St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts.

Last year, HB219 (2023) St. Mary's County – Golf Carts on Public Highways – Report passed the Maryland General Assembly. The bill required a report be presented to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee by December 1, 2023, outlining areas in St. Mary's County which met criteria established in the bill. Pursuant to filing of the report, HB653 was drafted to designate these locations for use of golf carts in St. Mary's County.

The purpose of the bill is to establish areas in St. Mary's County for which golf carts are allowed on public roads as permitted by the criteria of HB210 (2023).

We ask for the committee's consideration of this bill and a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,


Todd B. Morgan
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

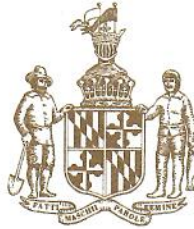
HB653 DTMorgan Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV

TODD B. MORGAN
Legislative District 29C
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 215
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3319 · 301-858-3319
800-492-7122 Ext. 3319
Todd.Morgan@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building

Testimony for HB653 – St Mary's County – Motor Vehicle registration – Exception for Golf Carts

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

For the record I am Delegate Todd Morgan presenting House Bill 653. The purpose of this bill is to establish areas in St. Mary's County where Golf Carts can legally operate on county roads. This legislation follows up last years bill which mandated St. Mary's County file a report to the Committee on the County's recommendations for golf cart areas. This bill simply authorizes golf cart usage on county roads in the areas outlined in the report filed by the County as recommended in HB219 (2023).

St. Mary's County historically has been a place where workers in D.C. have purchased weekend homes to get away from the hustle and bustle of beltway life. Thus, there are several close-knit waterfront communities which are dense and have a number of shared amenities in St. Mary's County. All of the areas outlined in the report are these waterfront communities described.

Allowing for golf cart usage in these communities has several advantages. Vehicle traffic is already slow because of the residential nature of these communities, and children can often be found playing on the streets due to the low traffic volumes. A fair amount of the traffic in these communities are from residents accessing the shared waterfront amenities. Allowing these trips to be done by golf cart instead of car will improve the safety of the streets, reduce noise, and create a better community atmosphere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Todd B. Morgan'.

Todd B. Morgan
Delegate, Calvert/St. Mary's County (29)