

Chapter 492

(House Bill 43)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Authorization

FOR the purpose of authorizing counties and municipalities to designate county or municipal highways under their respective jurisdictions on which a person may operate a golf cart; repealing certain authorizations to operate golf carts on highways in certain local areas of the State; and generally relating to the operation of golf carts on highways.

BY repealing

Article – Transportation

Section 21–104.2 through 21–104.4 and 21–104.6

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY renumbering

Article – Transportation

Section 21–104.5

to be Section 21–104.3

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 21–104.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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That Section(s) 21–104.3, 21–104.4, and 21–104.6 of Article – Transportation of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

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

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, 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.

(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 accordance with § 21–104.2[, § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, or § 21–104.6] of this article;
- [(13)] **(12)** 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)] **(13)** 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)] **(14)** A personal delivery device that is operated on a roadway, sidewalk, shoulder, or crosswalk in accordance with [§ 21–104.5] **§ 21–104.3** of this article.
- [21–104.2.

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 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.]

21-104.2.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY WITHOUT REGISTRATION, AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(11) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED:

1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS ITEM, 30 MILES PER HOUR; OR

2. IN GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, 35 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) 1. BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; ~~AND; AND~~

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.