

# HOUSE BILL 445

R4  
HB 592/09 – ENV

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CF 01r1584

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By: **Delegates Weir, Ali, Aumann, Beitzel, Boteler, Carr, Glenn, Holmes, Huckler, Minnick, Myers, Olszewski, Serafini, Shewell, Stein, and Stull**  
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2010  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles – Titling**

3 FOR the purpose of defining “off-highway recreational vehicle”; altering the definition  
4 of “vehicle” to include off-highway recreational vehicles; requiring the owner of  
5 an off-highway recreational vehicle not purchased before a certain date to apply  
6 for a certificate of title in certain circumstances; requiring an application for a  
7 certificate of title for an off-highway recreational vehicle to be made by a  
8 certain electronic transmission; altering certain requirements relating to the  
9 electronic transmission of vehicle data to authorize transmission by a service  
10 provider instead of a licensed dealer; providing that, for purposes of determining  
11 a certain excise tax, the fair market value of a used off-highway recreational  
12 vehicle is the greater of the total purchase price or a certain amount; imposing  
13 an excise tax for each original and each subsequent certificate of title issued for  
14 an off-highway recreational vehicle for which sales and use tax is not collected  
15 at the time of purchase; providing that an off-highway recreational vehicle is  
16 not required to be inspected when ownership is transferred; providing for the  
17 construction of this Act; and generally relating to off-highway recreational  
18 vehicles and titling.

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Transportation  
21 Section 11–140.1 and 13–102(13)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

25 Article – Transportation  
26 Section 11–176, 13–102(11) and (12), 13–104(a), 13–108.1, 13–809, and 23–106  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
2 Article – Transportation  
3 Section 13–101.1 and 13–610  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Transportation**

9 **11–140.1.**

10 (A) “OFF–HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE” MEANS A VEHICLE THAT  
11 IS:

12 (1) A MOTOR–ASSISTED OR MOTOR–DRIVEN VEHICLE THAT:

13 (I) IS DESIGNED TO CARRY ONLY THE OPERATOR OF THE  
14 VEHICLE ON A SEAT OR SADDLE DESIGNED TO BE STRADDLED BY THE  
15 OPERATOR OR IS DESIGNED TO CARRY ONLY THE OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE  
16 AND ONE PASSENGER; AND

17 (II) IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS AN ALL–TERRAIN VEHICLE;

18 (2) A MOTORCYCLE THAT IS DESIGNED FOR OFF–HIGHWAY  
19 OPERATION AND IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION AS A CLASS D  
20 (MOTORCYCLE) VEHICLE UNDER THIS ARTICLE, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A DIRT  
21 BIKE; OR

22 (3) A SNOWMOBILE.

23 (B) “OFF–HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

24 (1) A FARM VEHICLE AS DEFINED IN § 13–911 OF THIS ARTICLE  
25 WHEN USED EXCLUSIVELY ON FARM PROPERTY BY A FARMER; OR

26 (2) ANY VEHICLE WHEN USED ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR  
27 THE PURPOSE OF LANDSCAPING, GARDENING, OR LAWN CARE.

28 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ESTABLISH BY REGULATION OTHER  
29 REQUIREMENTS FOR OR LIMITATIONS ON THE DEFINITION OF “OFF–HIGHWAY  
30 RECREATIONAL VEHICLE”.

1 11-176.

2 (a) (1) "Vehicle" means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
3 section, any device in, on, or by which any individual or property is or might be  
4 transported or towed on a highway.

5 (2) "Vehicle" includes a low speed vehicle **AND AN OFF-HIGHWAY**  
6 **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.**

7 (b) "Vehicle" does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device as  
8 defined in § 21-101(j) of this article.

9 13-101.1.

10 Except as provided in § 13-102 of this subtitle, the owner of each vehicle that is  
11 in this State and for which the Administration has not issued a certificate of title shall  
12 apply to the Administration for a certificate of title of the vehicle.

13 13-102.

14 A certificate of title is not required for:

15 (11) A self-propelled invalid:

16 (i) Wheelchair; or

17 (ii) Tricycle; [or]

18 (12) A trailer, other than a camping trailer, rated by the manufacturer  
19 as having a gross vehicle weight of 2,500 pounds or less; **OR**

20 **(13) AN OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PURCHASED**  
21 **BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2010.**

22 13-104.

23 (a) **(1)** The application for a certificate of title of a vehicle shall be made  
24 by the owner of the vehicle on the form that the Administration requires.

25 **(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE,**  
26 **AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE OF AN OFF-HIGHWAY**  
27 **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SHALL BE MADE BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**  
28 **UNDER § 13-610 OF THIS TITLE.**

29 13-108.1.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Administration may  
2 develop and implement an electronic system for the issuance of certificates of title and  
3 the recording and releasing of security interests.

4 (b) The electronic system may provide for:

5 (1) Recording titling and registration data without the issuance of a  
6 certificate of title; and

7 (2) Recording and releasing liens without the issuance of a security  
8 interest filing.

9 (c) The electronic system may provide for the electronic transmission of  
10 vehicle data to and from [licensed dealers] **SERVICE PROVIDERS, AS DEFINED IN §**  
11 **13-610 OF THIS TITLE.**

12 (d) The Administration shall adopt regulations to govern the electronic  
13 transmission of titling and registration information authorized under this section.

14 13-610.

15 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (2) "Fleet" means 10 or more vehicles.

17 (3) "Qualified owner" means a person, partnership, firm, or  
18 corporation, or an individual agent of a person, partnership, firm, or corporation,  
19 authorized by the Administration to transmit electronically proper titling and  
20 registration information and fees to the Administration.

21 (4) "Service provider" means a dealer or title service agent licensed  
22 under Title 15 of this article or a qualified owner of a fleet.

23 (b) Subject to the approval of the Administration, a service provider may:

24 (1) Issue permanent registration plates to the transferee or renew the  
25 registration of a vehicle if the service provider has electronically transmitted the  
26 proper titling and registration information to the Administration, or an agent  
27 designated by the Administration; and

28 (2) Charge the transferee or the registered owner of the vehicle a fee  
29 for the actual cost to the service provider of the electronic transmission service  
30 described in item (1) of this subsection.

31 (c) The Administration shall adopt regulations to:



1                                   2.     \$320; and

2                                   (v)    In any other case, the valuation shown in a national  
3 publication of used car values adopted for use by the Department.

4                                   (3)   (i)    Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, “total  
5 purchase price” means the price of a vehicle agreed on by the buyer and the seller,  
6 including any dealer processing charge, less an allowance for trade-in but with no  
7 allowance for other nonmonetary consideration.

8                                   (ii)   As to a person trading in a nonleased vehicle to enter into a  
9 lease for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, “total purchase price” means the  
10 retail value of the vehicle as certified by the dealer, including any dealer processing  
11 charge, less an allowance for the trade-in of the nonleased vehicle but with no  
12 allowance for other nonmonetary consideration.

13                                 (4)    “Trailer” has the meaning stated in § 11-169 of this article.

14                                 (b)   (1)    Except as otherwise provided in this part, in addition to any other  
15 charge required by the Maryland Vehicle Law, an excise tax is imposed:

16                                   (i)    For each original and each subsequent certificate of title  
17 issued in this State for a motor vehicle, **A trailer, [or] A semitrailer, OR AN**  
18 **OFF-HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FOR WHICH SALES AND USE TAX IS NOT**  
19 **COLLECTED AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE;** and

20                                   (ii)   Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, for  
21 each motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is in interstate operation and registered  
22 under § 13-109(c) or (d) of this title without a certificate of title.

23                                 (2)   (i)    An excise tax of \$50 is imposed for the registration of a  
24 trailer exempt from the titling requirement under § 13-102(12) of this title.

25                                   (ii)   In a case where the fair market value as defined in  
26 subsection (a)(2)(iii)2A of this section applies, the excise tax imposed under this part  
27 may not be less than \$32.

28                                 (3)    A political subdivision of the State may not impose a sales tax, a  
29 use tax, or excise tax on the issuance of a motor vehicle certificate of title.

30                                 (c)   (1)    Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) of this section, the tax  
31 imposed by this section is 6 percent of the fair market value of the vehicle.

32                                   (2)   If the vehicle formerly was a vehicle exempt from the tax imposed  
33 by this section, the tax shall be reduced by any amount previously paid by the present  
34 owner as a sales and use tax on the vehicle under Title 11 of the Tax – General Article.

1                   (3) (i) 1. In this subparagraph, “military” includes the  
2 Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, the National Oceanic and  
3 Atmospheric Administration, or the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

4                   2. If the vehicle was formerly titled and registered in  
5 another state and the present owner has paid a sales or excise tax to that state at a  
6 rate less than that imposed by this State, then the tax imposed shall apply but at a  
7 rate measured by the difference only between the tax rate paid to the other state and  
8 the tax rate imposed by this section, if the present owner:

9                   A. Has not been a Maryland resident for more than 60  
10 days;

11                   B. Is a member of the military on active duty and has not  
12 been a Maryland resident for more than 1 year; or

13                   C. Is a Maryland resident who is a member of the  
14 military returning to Maryland from, or on, active duty and who applies for titling and  
15 registration in Maryland no more than 1 year after returning.

16                   (ii) If the vehicle was formerly titled and registered in another  
17 state and the present owner requests to transfer the vehicle in accordance with  
18 § 13–810(c)(1) of this subtitle, the Administration shall change or correct the names  
19 contained in the certificate of title:

20                   1. At the time the excise tax that is credited or imposed  
21 under this section is paid and a new title is issued; and

22                   2. Without issuing multiple certificates of title or  
23 charging additional fees.

24                   (iii) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) of this section, the  
25 minimum tax imposed under this section shall be \$100.

26                   (d) Each applicant for a certificate of title or for registration under  
27 § 13–109(c) of this title shall submit to the Administration:

28                   (1) The information that the Administration considers necessary as to:

29                   (i) The time of purchase of the vehicle; and

30                   (ii) The purchase price and other information relating to the  
31 determination of the fair market value of the vehicle which may include, but is not  
32 limited to:

33                   1. Canceled checks;

34                   2. Money order receipts;

1                                   3.     Loan documents; or

2                                   4.     A written description of the vehicle's condition; and

3                           (2)     If the excise tax is based on the total purchase price of the vehicle  
4 as provided in subsection (a)(2)(iii)2A of this section, a notarized bill of sale that:

5                                   (i)     Is designed by, and obtained from, the Administration;

6                                   (ii)    Is signed by the buyer and the seller; and

7                                   (iii)   Includes a statement explaining why the vehicle was sold at  
8 the price stated in the bill of sale.

9                   (e)     Any person who fails to pay the excise tax as required in this section is  
10 guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

11                   (f)     The Administration shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions  
12 of this section.

13     23–106.

14                   (a)     This section does not apply to:

15                           (1)     Any transfer of a used vehicle to any licensed dealer or to any  
16 foreign dealer;

17                           (2)     Any transfer between:

18                                   (i)     Spouses;

19                                   (ii)    A parent and child; or

20                                   (iii)   Co-owners of the vehicle to be transferred when a  
21 co-owner's name is being removed from the title;

22                           (3)     Any transfer of a used vehicle that is not to be both titled and  
23 registered in this State;

24                           (4)     Any transfer of a used vehicle among any agencies of the State;

25                           (5)     Any transfer of a used vehicle as described in § 13–503.2 of this  
26 article;

27                           (6)     Any transfer of a used vehicle into a written inter vivos trust in  
28 which the transferor is the primary beneficiary; [or]



1           (7) Any transfer of a used island vehicle, as defined in § 13–935 of this  
2 article, registered, or to be registered, as a Class K (farm area/island) vehicle; OR

3           **(8) ANY TRANSFER OF AN OFF–HIGHWAY RECREATIONAL**  
4 **VEHICLE.**

5           (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, if any  
6 licensed dealer that also is an inspection station transfers any used vehicle, it shall:

7                   (i) Prepare and attach an inspection certificate to a window of  
8 the vehicle; or

9                   (ii) Have an inspection certificate prepared and attached to a  
10 window of the vehicle by another inspection station.

11           (2) Except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5) of this subsection, if  
12 any other person transfers a used vehicle, the person shall obtain an inspection  
13 certificate from an inspection station. The inspection certificate shall be issued  
14 without charge and attached to a window of the vehicle.

15           (3) If a used vehicle is transferred other than by voluntary transfer or  
16 is transferred by a political subdivision of the State after that subdivision obtains the  
17 vehicle by proceedings pursuant to Title 12 of the Criminal Procedure Article, the  
18 transferee shall obtain the inspection certificate from an authorized inspection station.  
19 The inspection certificate shall be issued without charge and attached to a window of  
20 the vehicle.

21           (4) In the case of a transfer of any used vehicle registered, or to be  
22 registered, as a Class E (truck) exceeding three–fourths ton manufacturer’s rated  
23 capacity, Class F (tractor), Class G (freight trailer or semitrailer), or Class G (dump  
24 service semitrailer) vehicle, the transferor or the transferee of the vehicle may obtain  
25 the required inspection certificate.

26           (5) In the case of a transfer of any used vehicle registered or to be  
27 registered, that is sold for dismantling or rebuilding purposes, the transferor or the  
28 transferee of the vehicle may obtain the required inspection certificate.

29           (6) On applying for a certificate of title of the vehicle, the transferee  
30 shall remove the inspection certificate from the vehicle and present it to the  
31 Administration.

32           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be  
33 construed to supersede the provisions of any law of any county or political subdivision  
34 of the State not relating to the titling of off–highway recreational vehicles as defined  
35 in this Act.

1           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2    October 1, 2010.