

SENATE BILL 374

R4, R5

3lr1978
CF 3lr1975

By: **Charles County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles**
3 **– Cobb Island**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for
5 golf carts and low speed vehicles on Cobb Island in Charles County, subject to certain
6 requirements; and generally relating to exceptions to motor vehicle registration
7 requirements for golf carts and low speed vehicles on Cobb Island.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 11–130.1 and 13–402(a)(1)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 13–402(c)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Transportation

20 Section 21–104.7 and 21–104.8

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 11–130.1.

2 “Low speed vehicle” means a four–wheeled motor vehicle that has a maximum speed
3 capability that exceeds 20 miles per hour but is less than 25 miles per hour.

4 13–402.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with § 21–104.2,
7 § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, [or] § 21–104.6, **OR § 21–104.7** of this article;

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

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

13 (15) A personal delivery device that is operated on a roadway, sidewalk,
14 shoulder, or crosswalk in accordance with § 21–104.5 of this article; **OR**

15 **(16) A LOW SPEED VEHICLE THAT IS OPERATED ON A HIGHWAY IN**
16 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 21–104.8 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

17 **21–104.7.**

18 **A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A HIGHWAY ON COBB ISLAND,**
19 **CHARLES COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER §**
20 **13–402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:**

21 **(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:**

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

24 **(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND**

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

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

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

30 **21–104.8.**

1 **A PERSON WHO OPERATES A LOW SPEED VEHICLE ON A HIGHWAY ON COBB**
2 **ISLAND, CHARLES COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER §**
3 **13-402(C)(16) OF THIS ARTICLE:**

4 **(1) MAY OPERATE THE LOW SPEED VEHICLE ONLY:**

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

7 **(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND**

8 **(III) IF THE LOW SPEED VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING**
9 **DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;**

10 **(2) SHALL KEEP THE LOW SPEED VEHICLE AS FAR TO THE RIGHT OF**
11 **THE ROADWAY AS FEASIBLE; AND**

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

13 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
14 **1, 2023.**