

HOUSE BILL 440

R4, R5
HB 948/23 – ENT

4lr2387

By: **Charles County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Cobb Island**

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

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 13–402(a)(1)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 13–402(c)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Transportation
19 Section 21–104.7
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Transportation**

25 13–402.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with § 21–104.2,
2 § 21–104.3, § 21–104.4, [or] § 21–104.6, **OR § 21–104.7** of this article;

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

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

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

10 **21–104.7.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
24 1, 2024.