

HOUSE BILL 475

R4, R5
HB 863/21 – ENT

2lr0793

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts**

3 FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements for
4 golf carts in St. Mary's County; authorizing the St. Mary's County Board of
5 Commissioners, subject to a certain limitation, to designate the county highways on
6 which a person may operate a golf cart; establishing certain requirements and
7 limitations for the operation of golf carts in St. Mary's County; and generally relating
8 to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in St. Mary's
9 County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 13–402(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 13–402(c)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Transportation
22 Section 21–104.5
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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;

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

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

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

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

11 (12) A golf cart that is operated on a highway in accordance with §§ 21-104.2
12 through [21-104.4] **21-104.5** of this article;

13 (13) A golf cart that is operated on an Allegany County highway as allowed
14 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
16 foreign government and operated for official or personal purposes when the vehicle displays
17 a valid diplomatic license plate issued by the United States government.

18 **21-104.5.**

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

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

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

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

30 (I) **BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND**

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

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

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

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
7 1, 2022.