

Chapter 146

(Senate Bill 221)

AN ACT concerning

Farm Area Motor Vehicles – Registration and Authorized Use

FOR the purpose of increasing the radius from a farm within which a person may operate on a highway a motor vehicle registered as a farm area motor vehicle; requiring an applicant for registration of a farm area motor vehicle to submit with the application certain documentation of active farming status; altering a certain definition; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the registration and authorized use of farm area motor vehicles.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–935
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13–935.

- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) “Farm area motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle owned by a farmer and operated only on a farm or on a highway within a [10–mile] **25–MILE** radius of the farm.
- (3) “Island vehicle” means a motor vehicle, other than a golf cart, operated exclusively on an island that:
- (i) Is not accessible by a highway;
 - (ii) Does not have State maintained highways; and
 - (iii) Contains less than 20 miles of highways.

(b) If registered with the Administration under this section, every farm area motor vehicle, every island vehicle, and every vehicle that meets the requirements of subsection (d)(1) of this section is a Class K (farm area/island) vehicle.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, for each Class K (farm area/island) vehicle, the annual registration fee is \$2.50.

(d) (1) The Administration may issue a temporary registration under this section to a vehicle, other than an island vehicle, that:

(i) Is owned by a resident of another state, or a company operating out of another state, if the individual or company is under contract with a Maryland farmer to conduct seasonal harvesting operations in this State;

(ii) Is used to transport perishable commodities directly between a farm and a packing plant for sorting and processing;

(iii) Passes a level 1 safety inspection conducted by the Department of State Police; and

(iv) Is only operated within a 35-mile radius of the location where the seasonal harvesting operations will occur.

(2) A temporary registration issued under this subsection may not be in effect for more than 90 days.

(3) The Department of State Police shall establish a weight limitation for vehicles registered under this subsection.

(4) A vehicle issued temporary registration under this subsection shall meet the mandatory minimum security requirements of Title 17, Subtitle 1 of this article.

(5) A person may not operate a vehicle registered under this subsection unless the person holds a driver's license issued under Title 16 of this article, or a license to drive issued by the state of the person's residence.

(6) The Administration may establish a fee for a temporary registration issued under this subsection.

(e) An island vehicle registered under this section may not be operated on a highway in the State that is not on an island described in subsection (a)(3) of this section.

(F) IN APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF A FARM AREA MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE SHALL SUBMIT WITH THE

APPLICATION, FROM THE MOST RECENT FEDERAL TAX FILING OF THE OWNER, A COPY OF:

- (1) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FORM 1040, SCHEDULE F; OR**
- (2) ANY OTHER FEDERAL TAX FORM SHOWING ACTIVE FARMING STATUS, AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. *It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years from the date it is enacted and, at the end of the 5-year period, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.*

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.