

# HOUSE BILL 948

R4, R5  
SB 76/22 – JPR

3lr1975  
CF SB 374

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By: **Charles County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## 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**

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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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**21–104.7.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.