

SENATE BILL 750

R4, R5

0lr2761
CF 0lr2764

By: **Senator Cassilly**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Low Speed Electric Vehicles – Use by Municipalities**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an exception under certain circumstances for low speed
4 electric vehicles to the vehicle registration requirement; authorizing the Motor
5 Vehicle Administration to issue a permit to a municipality that authorizes the
6 municipality to operate on a highway a certain number of certain low speed electric
7 vehicles; authorizing a municipality to apply for a permit; requiring a permit
8 applicant to state certain information; establishing certain operating requirements
9 for a municipal low speed electric vehicle; requiring the Motor Vehicle
10 Administration to issue a permit to a municipality under certain circumstances;
11 authorizing the State Highway Administration to designate certain places at which
12 low speed electric vehicles operated by a municipality may cross certain highways in
13 a certain manner; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt certain
14 regulations; defining “low speed electric vehicle”; establishing that a low speed
15 electric vehicle is not subject to certain weight restrictions; and generally relating to
16 low speed electric vehicles.

17 BY renumbering

18 Article – Transportation

19 Section 11–130.1

20 to be Section 11–130.2

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

24 Article – Transportation

25 Section 11–101 and 13–402(a)(1)

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

28 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Transportation

Section 11–130.1, 13–402(c)(15), 21–104.5, and 24–113.4

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(c)(13) and (14)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That Section(s) 11–130.1 of Article – Transportation of the Annotated Code of Maryland be
renumbered to be Section(s) 11–130.2.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
as follows:

Article – Transportation

11–101.

In the Maryland Vehicle Law, the following words have the meanings indicated,
unless the context requires otherwise.

11–130.1.

“LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE” MEANS A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT:

(1) IS ELECTRIC POWERED;

(2) IS CAPABLE OF A SUSTAINED SPEED OF 20 MILES PER HOUR;

**(3) IS NOT CAPABLE OF EXCEEDING A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 25 MILES
PER HOUR; AND**

(4) HAS A MAXIMUM SEATING CAPACITY OF 12 PASSENGERS.

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.

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

(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; [or]

(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 LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE THAT IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY A MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED A PERMIT TO OPERATE THE VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21–104.5 OF THIS ARTICLE.

21–104.5.

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE A PERMIT TO A MUNICIPALITY AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPALITY TO OPERATE ON A HIGHWAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION UP TO FOUR LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES OWNED BY THE MUNICIPALITY WITHOUT REGISTERING THE VEHICLES.

(B) (1) A MUNICIPALITY MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(2) A PERMIT APPLICATION SHALL STATE:

(I) THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES WILL BE OPERATED;

(II) THE TYPE, WEIGHT, SPEED CAPABILITY, AND SEATING CAPACITY OF THE LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES; AND

(III) THE INTENDED ROUTES AND SCHEDULES OF OPERATION FOR THE LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

(C) A LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE OPERATED BY A MUNICIPALITY:

(1) MAY BE OPERATED ONLY ON A HIGHWAY:

(I) THAT IS NOT A STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAY; AND

(II) ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 MILES PER HOUR;

(2) MAY BE OPERATED BETWEEN DUSK AND DAWN ONLY IF THE LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH LIGHTING DEVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

(3) SHALL BE INSURED BY THE MUNICIPALITY; AND

(4) SHALL BE OPERATED BY A PERSON WHO:

(1) IS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD; AND

(2) POSSESSES A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE.

(D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ISSUE A PERMIT IF THE APPLICATION ADEQUATELY DEMONSTRATES THAT THE MUNICIPALITY'S INTENDED USE OF THE LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLES COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(E) (1) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MUNICIPALITY THAT HOLDS OR IS APPLYING FOR A PERMIT, MAY DESIGNATE LOCATIONS AT WHICH A PERSON OPERATING A LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE MAY DRIVE THE VEHICLE, AT A RIGHT ANGLE, ACROSS A STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAY.

(2) LOCATIONS DESIGNATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE AT POINTS AT WHICH THE POSTED MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 30 MILES PER HOUR.

(F) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

24-113.4.

A LOW SPEED ELECTRIC VEHICLE IS NOT SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2020.