

HOUSE BILL 863

R4, R5

1lr1592

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

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

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,
4 under certain circumstances, for golf carts in St. Mary's County; providing that a
5 person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in St. Mary's County may
6 operate the golf cart only on certain roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is
7 equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart
8 on a county highway in St. Mary's County to keep as far to the right of the roadway
9 as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the St. Mary's County
10 Board of Commissioners to designate the county highways on which a person may
11 operate a golf cart in St. Mary's County; providing for the application of this Act; and
12 generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf
13 carts in St. Mary's County.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Transportation
16 Section 13–402(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2020 Replacement Volume)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Transportation
21 Section 13–402(c)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2020 Replacement Volume)

24 BY adding to
25 Article – Transportation
26 Section 21–104.5
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2020 Replacement Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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;

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

(9) A vehicle operated in connection with maritime commerce exclusively 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 through [21-104.4] **21-104.5** 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; 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.

21-104.5.

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

(B) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(c)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) MAY OPERATE THE GOLF CART ONLY:

(I) ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR;

(II) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND

1 (III) 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) SHALL POSSESS A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE.

6 (C) THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY DESIGNATE
7 THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
9 1, 2021.