

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

*Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney  
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney*



**Commissioners of St. Mary's County**  
James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Commissioners of St. Mary's County  
David A. Weiskopf, County Administrator

CC: David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator  
Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney

FROM: John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

RE: Report Recommending Roadways Appropriate for Golf Carts – Staff Report

DATE: September 19, 2023

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Commissioners:

HB 219/CH 609 from 2023's General Assembly session requires the Commissioners to submit, by December 1, 2023, a report recommending which areas of the County the Commissioners believe are suitable for the operation of unregistered golf carts on county-owned roads. As the Commissioners will recall, the County has sought local authority on this subject for a number of years.

HB 219 lists certain standards that an area must satisfy to be considered "appropriate." Those standards are:

- The area shall be an isolated area on an island or peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;
- The area shall have available significant public docking facilities or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;
- The area shall be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;
- The area shall have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and,
- The area shall preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

There are no additional definitions or interpretations of these standards than the plain-text provided above. I could not locate an example of a report being required from any locality prior to the enactment of similar legislation, but successful legislation in this area – and some unsuccessful legislation – appear to be focused on specific communities, rather than general

grants of authority to an entire jurisdiction. (For example, enacted laws allow for golf carts in communities of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, Smith Island, the City of Crisfield, the City of Vienna, and Hoopers Island; legislation asking for the local governing body to designate any local road as suitable for golf carts provided certain criteria have met have failed to advance in 2021, 2022, and 2023 for St. Mary's County, and for Cecil County in 2021. Contrasting that general trend, however, was failure of legislation creating similar exemptions for Cobb Island and the City of Charlestown in 2023.)

In all similar legislation, the local governing body must adopt a subsequent resolution designating any road where operation of unregistered golf carts shall be legal. No unregistered golf cart may be driven before that time. For all recent exemptions created the General Assembly has specified that golf carts may only be operated by a driver possessing a valid driver's license, that they may only be driven from dawn to dusk, and that they must drive as far to the right of a roadway as is feasible.

The draft report contains no recommended areas, but review suggests at least the following communities may be eligible to include:

- Piney Point/Tall Timbers, including the neighborhoods of Piney Point Landings, Lighthouse Road, Piney Point Shores, and St. George's Beach
- Colton's Point
- St. Clement's Shores
- Hollywood Shores
- Clarke's Landing
- St. George's Island

Which communities to include will be left for the Commissioners to decide. For every community the Commissioners decide to include in this report, a narrative will be added and a map produced from the County's GIS service showing the county-owned roads in that community that would become eligible for designation as golf cart-accessible roads.

/s/John Sterling Houser

John Sterling Houser  
Assistant County Attorney

**Report of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County**  
to the House Environment and Transportation Committee,  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and  
the St. Mary's County Delegation to the General Assembly



**Report and Recommendations Pertaining to:**  
House Bill 219 / Chapter 609, 2023 Session

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is submitted pursuant to House Bill 219 – St. Mary’s County – Golf Carts on Public Highways – Report, enacted into law as Chapter 609 of the Acts of 2023. HB 219/CH 609 charges the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County with submitting, on or before December 1, 2023, a report to designated committees of the General Assembly “recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary’s County that the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to the standards established in this section.” This document, together with its appendices and exhibits, is offered as that report. Included below as forewords to the Commissioners’ recommendations, for added context, are summaries of HB 219/CH 609, the legislative history of HB 219, and previously enacted legislation of similar scope allowing the operation of golf carts on certain public highways in other communities of the State.

## **SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 219 / CHAPTER 609**

House Bill 219 / Chapter 609 (“HB 219”) requires the Commissioners submit a report to designated committees of the General Assembly recommending and describing areas the County the Commissioners believe are appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways. Per Paragraph (b) of HB 219, an “appropriate area” shall:

- (1) be an isolated area on an island or peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;
- (2) have available significant public docking facilities or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;
- (3) be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;
- (4) have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and,
- (5) preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

The report is due by December 1, 2023 and shall be delivered to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the St. Mary’s County Delegation to the General Assembly. Per State Government Article § 2-1257, five copies of the report shall be submitted to the library of the Department of Legislative Services and one copy each shall be furnished to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. Distribution approval shall be attained from the chair of each committee before any distribution to individual committee members.

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

Prior to passage, HB 219 was significantly amended from its original form. As first filed HB 219 would have authorized the Commissioners to allow the operation of golf carts on any county-owned road in St. Mary's County, provided the posted speed limit of the road did not exceed thirty-five (35) miles per hour. Also included were conditions that golf carts could only be operable on authorized roads from dawn to dusk, that the golf cart be equipped with any lighting devices as may be required by the Motor Vehicle Administration ("MVA"), that operators shall keep the golf cart as far to the right of a road as possible, and that any operator of a golf cart must possess a valid driver's license. Bills with identical language were introduced in 2021 (HB 475) and 2022 (HB 863) but failed to advance.

HB 219 asks the Commissioners to identify communities that together comprise an aggregate area much smaller than the County as a whole. If the General Assembly introduces and passes enacting legislation as requested by this report the grant of authority to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will be much narrower than that which would have been given by earlier versions of the legislation. Under the legislation requested by this report the authority that would be given to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will be largely in line with the similar authority already granted to certain other counties, as further explained below.

## **COMPARABLE ENACTED LEGISLATION**

Generally, any motor vehicle must be registered with the MVA before it can be driven on a highway. Through legislation the General Assembly has exempted this requirement<sup>1</sup> in the following communities:

- Smith Island, in Somerset County (Transportation Article § 13-402(c)(11); enacted 1992)
- Crisfield, in Somerset County (Transportation Article § 21-104.2; enacted 2016)
- Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, in St. Mary's County (Transportation Article § 21-104.3; enacted 2017)
- Vienna, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.4; enacted 2018)
- Upper Hoopers Island, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.6; enacted 2022)
- Middle Hoopers Island, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.6; enacted 2022)
- Taylors Island, in Dorchester County (Transportation Article § 21-104.6; enacted 2022)

Common to the exemptions above are the following provisions: that golf carts may only be operated on a county highway on which the posted speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour,

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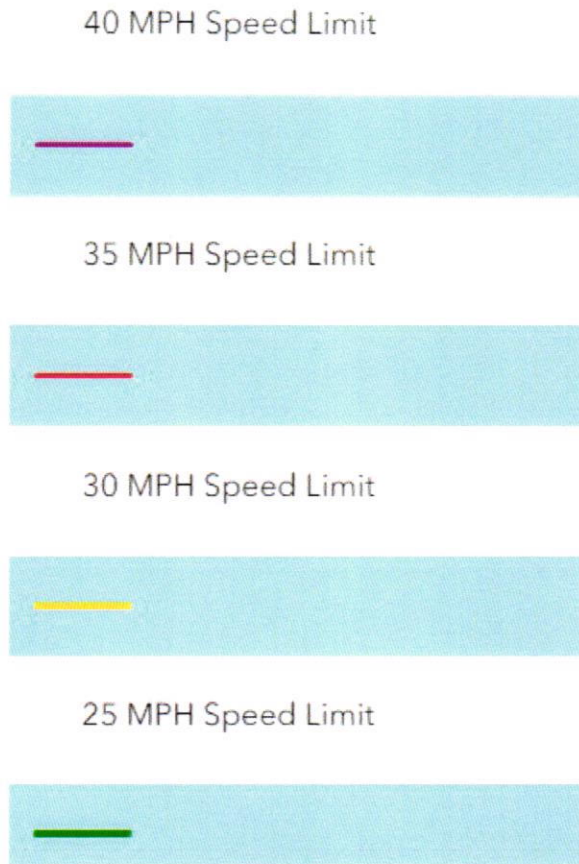
<sup>11</sup> Exemptions elsewhere for the operation of unregistered all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles in certain circumstances. Transportation § 25-102(a)(14). In Allegany County, an exemption exists allowing golf carts to traverse state roads for continued access to any portion of a golf course. Transportation § 25-102(a)(16).

that golf carts may only be operated between dawn and dusk, that any golf carts must be equipped with lighting devices as required by the MVA, that golf carts shall be kept as far to the right of the roadway as feasible, that any operators of a golf cart must possess a valid driver's license, and that the local governing body must designate by resolution specific county highways within each community that golf carts may be operated upon.

While it is beyond this report's scope to provide a review of the degree to which these communities satisfy the criteria this report must address, it does note there is evident diversity among the communities. Some, such as Crisfield and Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, are comprised of relatively densely populated environs; others, such as Hoopers Islands, are sparsely populated. The magnitude of public and private amenities offered in each varies. On balance and as stated previously, the Commissioners feel the communities in St. Mary's County identified below are of similar nature and character as these other communities.

**AREAS RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATE FOR OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS**

All maps provided are taken directly from the County's publicly-available Geographic Information System ("GIS") (accessible at <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/it/gis/>). A special layer has been imposed identifying county-owned roads in each community, with roads highlighted according to the following legend:

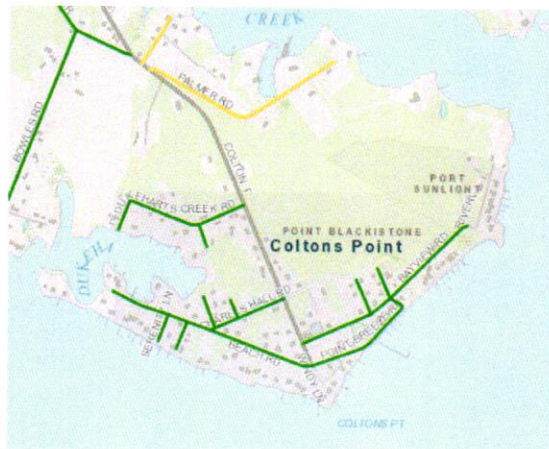


PINEY POINT & TALL TIMBERS



Piney Point and neighboring Tall Timbers are unincorporated waterfront communities bounded by water on all sides. The area borders the Potomac River to the west and south, St. George Creek to the east and northeast, and Herring Creek to the north. A gullet of land a third of a mile wide between Herring Creek and St. George's Creek connects the area to the rest of St. Mary's County, and a short bridge connects Piney Point to St. George's Island in the southeast. While Piney Point was once a major summer destination for visitors and dignitaries from Washington, today Piney Point – which includes the communities of Potomac Beach and Lighthouse Road, Piney Point Shores, St. George's Beach, the Landings, and other small subdivisions – comprises many single-family homes that enjoy year-round and seasonal use. Amenities available to residents and guests include the Piney Point public boat landing and pier, the county-owned Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park (including the Piney Point Light, constructed in 1836), the Tall Timbers Marina, and other local restaurants and recreational facilities. The area is dotted with numerous private piers and beaches. The majority of roads in the community are county-owned or privately maintained and do not have speed limits greater than 25 miles per hour, as shown on the map above.

### COLTON'S POINT



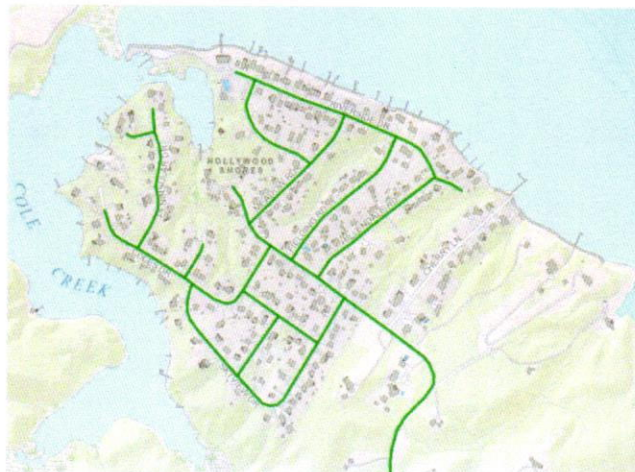
Colton's Point lies directly across St. Clement's Bay from St. Clement's Island, site of the first colonial landing in Maryland on March 25, 1634. Today, Colton's Point is a residential community whose location on the Potomac River make it a prime destination for tourism and the boating public during season. Amenities include the St. Clement's Island Museum, a large public pier immediately adjacent the museum, the nearby state parks at St. Clement's Island and Newtowne Neck, the Blackistone Island Lighthouse on St. Clement's Island, and Potomac Gardens, a food service and entertainment establishment in mainland Colton's Point. A water taxi between St. Clement's Island Museum and the north pier on St. Clement's Island runs daily during the months between March and October; the only other means of accessing the island is by private boat. State Route 242 terminates at the intersection of Point Breeze Road and Windy Lane, and all other major public roads in the community are county-owned.

### ST. CLEMENT'S SHORES



Four-and-a-half miles, as the crow flies, across St. Clement's Bay from Colton's Point lies the community known as St. Clement's Shores. The community contains a multitude of private piers, as well as a large pier owned by the St. Clement's Shores Civic Association. Nearby amenities include the Saint Clement's Shores Park, and the community is within easy boating distance of the amenities at Colton's Point, as well as Fitzie's Marina in Compton. All significant roads within St. Clement's Shores and its immediate environs are owned and maintained by the County and carry a maximum speed limit below 30 miles per hour.

### HOLLYWOOD SHORES



Bordering the Patuxent River on the north and Cole Creek on the west, Hollywood Shores' is located in the rough midpoint of St. Mary's County Patuxent River shoreline. The Patuxent River, which separates St. Mary's County from Calvert County, is a major recreational venue for boating. Hollywood Shores' local amenities include a pool and boat launch owned by the community's civic association and contains numerous private piers.

### CLARKE'S LANDING



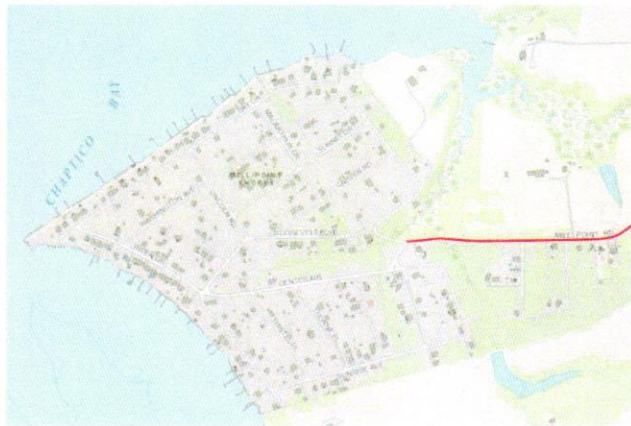
The area identified as Clarke's Landing in this report centers on the eponymous Clarke's Landing, a well-known seafood restaurant containing a public boat landing and floating dock. Paved parking is provided for landborne visitors. The greater area consists of single-family homes served by county-owned roads, most of which have maximum speed limits of 25 miles per hour. The area is bounded by Cuckold Creek and Nats Creek, both of which are tributaries of the Patuxent River. Other amenities in the greater area include Myrtle Point Park to the immediate southeast and the Winpisinger Education & Technology Center, a training center for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers ("IAM").

### ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND



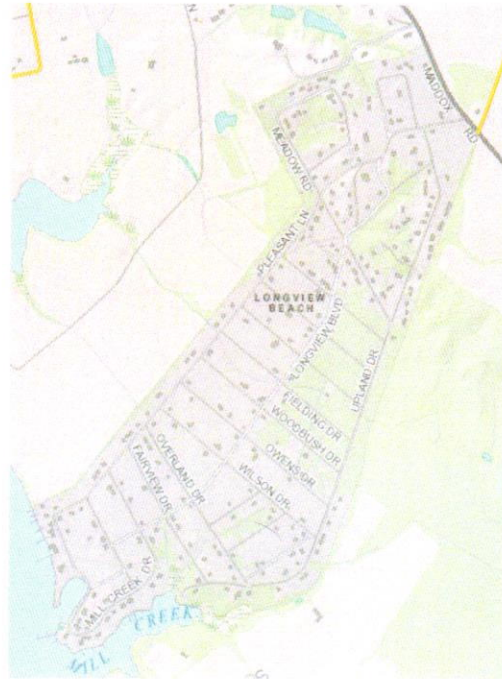
Immediately southeast of Piney Point and Tall Timbers, St. George's Island is located in the Potomac River. Its only static mainland connection is a bridge between the island and Piney Point. Primarily served by State Route 249, state ownership of the road terminates at the island's rough midpoint, and county roads service the remainder of the island. Nearly every waterfront parcel on the island has its own pier, and its immediate proximity to Piney Point gives boaters easy access to the same amenities.

### MILL POINT SHORES



Mill Point Shores, which borders Choptico Bay and the Wicomico River, a tributary of the Potomac, formed in the early twentieth century. Originally created by and for the region's African-American population, it began as a private waterfront community comprised of summer cottages and meant to provide recreational opportunities for that underserved population. The seasonal nature of the community declined over successive decades and Mill Point Shores is now dominated by all-year residences, many parcels in the community continue to be owned by descendants of the original owners. Most every waterfront lot contains a private pier, and the local Mill Point Improvement Association provides a community clubhouse, beach, and boat ramp. All roads in the community are privately maintained by the residents; one additional salutary benefit of allowing golf carts on these roadways is the reduced strain on the wear and tear of these roads.

LONGVIEW BEACH



Longview Beach, bordering Mill Creek and the Wicomico River, lies less than three miles south of Millpoint Shores and shares its same history and qualities. Originally intended to be a community of summer cottages, most of Longview Beach's residents are now year-round inhabitants. A community clubhouse, beach, and other amenities are provided by the Long View Beach Club Association. As in Mill Point shores, all roads are privately maintained and stand to gain the same benefit of reduced wear and tear if golf cart use is sanctioned.

RODO BEACH & SCOTLAND BEACH



Rodo Beach and Scotland Beach are small, isolated areas in the County's south; bounded by Tanner Creek on the south, Long Neck Creek on the north, and the Chesapeake Bay on the east, the community's immediate proximity to the confluence of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay make it a prime location for the general boating public. Immediately south of the community lies Point Lookout State Park, which includes the Point Lookout Lighthouse, public fishing pier, campground, boat launch, canoe, and other amenities included as part of the state park. Amenities directly within the community include Scotland Yard Beach Rentals.

**CONCLUSION**

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County believe the areas identified above satisfy the criteria for public highways appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts. Accordingly, the Commissioners respectfully ask the General Assembly to consider enacting legislation this year giving the Commissioners authority to designate, by local resolution, county roads in each of the recommended areas on which it will be legal to operate golf carts. The Commissioners ask that the legislation have the same restrictions and conditions customary to similar legislation enacted in recent years: that only public highways with posted speed limits of thirty (30) miles per hour or less be eligible, and that golf carts may only be operated on those roads from dawn to dusk, as far to the right of a roadway as is feasible, and only by those possessing a valid driver's license.

We thank the General Assembly for the opportunity to present this report and for the legislature's consideration of this matter, which remains of great interest to our County.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

James Randy Guy  
Commissioner President

## Chapter 609

## (House Bill 219)

AN ACT concerning

**St. Mary's County – ~~Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for~~ Golf Carts on Public Highways – Report**

FOR the purpose of ~~creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in St. Mary's County; authorizing the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners, subject to a certain limitation, to designate the county highways on which a person may operate a golf cart; establishing certain requirements and limitations for the operation of golf carts in St. Mary's County~~ requiring the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners to produce a report recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary's County that the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to certain standards; requiring the County Board to submit the report to certain entities of the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts on public highways in St. Mary's County.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 13-402(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 13-402(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to  
Article – Transportation  
Section 21-104.7  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)~~

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

(a) The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners shall produce a report recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary's County that the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to the standards established in this section.

(b) An area appropriate for the operation of golf carts on public highways shall:

(1) be an isolated area on an island or a peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;

(2) have available significant public docking facilities or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;

(3) be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;

(4) have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and

(5) preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

(c) The report required under this section shall include a detailed map of any areas the County Board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, including a delineation of all public highways contained within the area.

(d) By December 1, 2023, the County Board shall submit the report, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to:

(1) the House Environment and Transportation Committee;

(2) the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee; and

(3) the St. Mary's County Delegation to the General Assembly.

### ~~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.~~

~~(e) 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, § 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.~~

~~21-104.7.~~

~~(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) THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY DESIGNATE ANY COUNTY HIGHWAY WHERE THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR AS A HIGHWAY ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-102(c)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

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

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

~~(i) BETWEEN DAWN AND DUSK; AND~~

~~(ii) 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) MUST POSSESS A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023.

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.**

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 219

(St. Mary's County Delegation\*)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

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**St. Mary's County - Golf Carts on Public Highways - Report**

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This bill requires the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners to produce a report recommending and describing the areas of St. Mary's County that the board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, subject to specified standards. The report must include a detailed map of any areas the board considers appropriate for the operation of unregistered golf carts on public highways, including a delineation of all public highways contained within the area. By December 1, 2023, the board must submit the report to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the St. Mary's County Delegation to the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners can produce and submit the required report with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** An area appropriate for the operation of golf carts on public highways must:

- be an isolated area on an island or a peninsula bordering the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries;
- have available significant public or private docking facilities available to the public that would facilitate visitors to the area arriving by boat;
- be viable as a destination for the boating public as part of a network of tourist attractions throughout the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries;
- have available for visitors shopping, sightseeing, dining, charter fishing, beaches, pools, or water parks, or other attractions; and
- preferably contain no State highways or highways with a speed limit that exceeds 30 miles per hour.

**Current Law:** Each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven on a highway must be registered. Certain motor vehicles are exempt from this requirement, including:

- certain snowmobiles in Allegany and Garrett counties; and
- certain golf carts in Allegany County, on Smith Island, in the City of Crisfield in Somerset County, in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County, in the Town of Vienna in Dorchester County, and on Hoopers Island and Taylors Island.

A "motor vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that, unless otherwise specifically exempted, is self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from overhead electrical wires and not operated on rails. Certain vehicles, such as low-speed vehicles, bicycles, and motor scooters, are restricted to certain highways based on the maximum posted speed limit; they may be subject to different rules of the road than passenger cars and trucks.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2023  
km/lgc Third Reader - March 28, 2023  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 28, 2023

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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

(4) An annual State tax is imposed on all assessable property in the State in rate and amount sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as and when due and until paid in full. The principal shall be discharged within 15 years after the date of issue of the bonds.

(5) Prior to the payment of any funds under the provisions of this Act for the purposes set forth in Section 1(3) above, the County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County and the Foundation for Working Families, Inc. of Montgomery County shall provide a matching fund. No part of an applicant's matching fund may be provided, either directly or indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of ~~real property, in kind contributions, or~~ funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. UP TO \$150,000 OF THE FUND MAY CONSIST OF REAL PROPERTY OR IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, THE DOLLAR VALUE OF WHICH SHALL BE DOCUMENTED TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The County Executive and County Council of Montgomery County and the Foundation for Working Families, Inc. of Montgomery County has until June 1, ~~1993~~ 1994, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1992.

Approved May 12, 1992.

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CHAPTER 258

(Senate Bill 491)

AN ACT concerning

**Vehicle Laws – Registration Requirements – Exception**

FOR the purpose of exempting golf carts operated on highways on Smith Island, Somerset County, from registration requirements generally applicable to vehicles operated on highways in the State; requiring a golf cart that is operated on a highway between dusk and dawn to be equipped with certain lighting devices; and generally relating to registration requirements for motor vehicles.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13-402(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Transportation

Section 13-402(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

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.

(b) Except as otherwise expressly authorized in this title, the Administration may not register or renew the registration of a vehicle unless the Administration has issued to the owner a certificate of title of the vehicle or has received an application for the certificate of title.

(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 30 days of his residency provided the vehicle displays valid registration issued by the jurisdiction of his former domicile;
- (8) New vehicles 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 which is operated on highways and roadways as prescribed by § 25-102(a)(14) of this article; [or]
- (11) A GOLF CART WHICH IS OPERATED ON HIGHWAYS 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; OR
- (12) 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.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.

Approved May 12, 1992.

CHAPTER 259

(Senate Bill 501)

AN ACT concerning

**Garrett County - Hotel Rental Tax**

FOR the purpose of increasing the hotel rental tax rate that Garrett County may impose on certain charges paid to certain hotels located in the County; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the hotel rental tax in Garrett County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 24 - Political Subdivisions - Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 9-304

Chapter 257

**(House Bill 253)**

AN ACT concerning

**Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – City of Crisfield**

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts in the City of Crisfield; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the City of Crisfield may operate the golf cart only on certain roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the City of Crisfield to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the State Highway Administration, in consultation with the City of Crisfield, to develop a location in the City of Crisfield where a person operating a golf cart may cross over a certain highway; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the City of Crisfield.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 13–402(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 13–402(c)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Transportation  
Section 21–104.2  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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.

(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 THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-104.2 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

[(13)] (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.

**21-104.2.**

**(A) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A HIGHWAY IN THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET 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~~:**

**1. THAT IS NOT DESIGNATED OR MAINTAINED AS A PART OR AN EXTENSION OF THE STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM; AND**

**2. ON WHICH THE MAXIMUM POSTED SPEED LIMIT DOES NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR;**

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

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

**(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.**

**(B) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, MAY DESIGNATE A LOCATION IN THE CITY OF CRISFIELD WHERE A PERSON OPERATING A GOLF CART MAY CROSS, AT A RIGHT ANGLE, A HIGHWAY THAT IS DESIGNATED OR MAINTAINED AS A PART OR AN EXTENSION OF THE STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, April 26, 2016.**

Chapter 710

**(House Bill 176)**

AN ACT concerning

**Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls**

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts on county highways in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls may operate the golf cart only on certain county roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, ~~in consultation with the State Highway Administration,~~ to designate the county highways in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls on which a person may operate a golf cart; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–402(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 21–104.3

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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.

(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 the City of Crisfield, Somerset County, in accordance with § 21-104.2 of this article;

**(13) A GOLF CART THAT IS OPERATED ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-104.3 OF THIS ARTICLE;**

(14) 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)]~~ **(15)** 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.

**21-104.3.**

**(A) A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(13) 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**

**(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.**

**(B) THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION, ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,~~ MAY DESIGNATE THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS IN THE COMMUNITY OF GOLDEN BEACH PATUXENT KNOLLS ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

**Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.**

## Chapter 174

**(House Bill 330)**

AN ACT concerning

**Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Town of Vienna**

FOR the purpose of creating an exception from motor vehicle registration requirements under certain circumstances for golf carts in the Town of Vienna; providing that a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the Town of Vienna may operate the golf cart only on certain roads at certain times and only if the golf cart is equipped with certain lighting devices; requiring a person who operates a golf cart on a highway in the Town of Vienna to keep as far to the right of the roadway as feasible and possess a valid driver's license; authorizing the ~~State Highway Administration, in consultation with the appropriate local authority, to develop locations where a person operating a golf cart may cross certain highways~~ town government to designate the highways on which a person may operate a golf cart in the Town of Vienna; making certain conforming changes; and generally relating to an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts in the Town of Vienna.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13-402(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13-402(c) and ~~21-104.2~~ 21-104.3(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding toArticle – TransportationSection 21-104.4Annotated Code of Maryland(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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.

(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 the City of Crisfield, Somerset County, OR THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY,~~ in accordance with ~~§ 21-104.2~~ **§§ 21-104.2 THROUGH 21-104.4** of this article;

(13) ~~A golf cart that is operated on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County, in accordance with § 21-104.3 of this article;~~

~~(14)~~ 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

~~(15)~~ **(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.

~~21-104.2.~~

~~(a) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN:~~

~~(1) THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, SOMERSET COUNTY; AND~~

~~(2) THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER COUNTY.~~

~~(B) A person who operates a golf cart on a highway [in the City of Crisfield, Somerset County,] without registration as authorized under § 13-402(e)(12) of this article:~~

~~(1) May operate the golf cart only:~~

~~(i) On a highway:~~

~~1. That is not designated or maintained as a part or an extension of the State or federal highway system; and~~

~~2. On which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 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.~~

~~[(b)] (C) The State Highway Administration, in consultation with [the City of Crisfield] THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITY, may designate [a location] LOCATIONS in the City of Crisfield OR THE TOWN OF VIENNA where a person operating a golf cart may cross, at a right angle, a highway that is designated or maintained as a part or an extension of the State or federal highway system.~~

21-104.3.

(a) A person who operates a golf cart on a county highway in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, St. Mary's County, without registration as authorized under [§ 13-402(c)(13)] § 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

(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.

21-104.4.

(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO OPERATES A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY IN THE TOWN OF VIENNA, DORCHESTER 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.**

**(B) THE TOWN GOVERNMENT MAY DESIGNATE THE HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF VIENNA ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE A GOLF CART.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.

Chapter 387

(House Bill 193)

AN ACT concerning

**Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for ~~Electric~~ Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Taylors Island**

FOR the purpose of creating an exception to motor vehicle registration requirements for ~~electric~~ golf carts on Upper Hoopers Island, Middle Hoopers Island, and Taylors Island, subject to certain requirements and conditions; authorizing the County Council of Dorchester County to designate county highways on which a person may operate ~~a an electric~~ a golf cart on Upper Hoopers Island, Middle Hoopers Island, or Taylors Island; and generally relating to exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for ~~electric~~ golf carts.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 13–402(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 13–402(c)(12)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Transportation  
Section 21–104.6  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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.

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

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

**21-104.6.**

**(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO OPERATES ~~A AN-ELECTRIC~~ A GOLF CART ON A COUNTY HIGHWAY ON UPPER HOOPERS ISLAND, MIDDLE HOOPERS ISLAND, OR TAYLORS ISLAND, WITHOUT REGISTRATION AS AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13-402(C)(12) OF THIS ARTICLE:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(B) THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MAY DESIGNATE BY RESOLUTION THE COUNTY HIGHWAYS ON UPPER HOOPERS ISLAND, MIDDLE HOOPERS ISLAND, OR TAYLORS ISLAND ON WHICH A PERSON MAY OPERATE ~~A AN~~ ~~ELECTRIC~~ A GOLF CART.**

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.**

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

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September 26, 2023

The Honorable Todd Morgan, Chair  
St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation  
Maryland House of Delegates  
215 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Chapter 609 – Golf Carts on Public Highways – Report Required  
2023 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

Dear Chairman Morgan:

Enclosed please find the report recommending and describing areas of St. Mary's County that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County consider appropriate for the operation of golf carts on public highways as required by Chapter 609 – Golf Carts on Public Highways - which was passed during the 2023 Session of the Maryland General Assembly

We would appreciate the introduction of legislation permitting the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to designate by subsequent resolution the roads and recommended areas on which it would be legal to operate golf carts. We believe such legislation would benefit our citizens. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
T:/Consent/2023/

Cc: The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House  
The House Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator  
Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney

P.O. BOX 653 • CHESAPEAKE BUILDING • 41770 BALDRIDGE ST., LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650  
PHONE 301.475.4200 \*1350 • FAX 301.475.4935 • [www.stmaryscountymd.gov](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov) • [CSMC@STMARYSCOUNTYMD.GOV](mailto:CSMC@STMARYSCOUNTYMD.GOV)

John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney  
Department of Legislative Services, Library

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_ - St. Mary's County Golf Carts on Public Highways**

**SUPPORT**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Senator \_\_\_\_\_, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
\_\_\_\_\_ West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman \_\_\_\_\_:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County support Senate Bill # \_\_\_\_\_: St. Mary's County Golf Carts on Public Highways - which is being heard in the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. This bill, if enacted into law, would grant the Commissioners the ability to designate by subsequent resolution certain roads in St. Mary's County for the legal, safe operation of golf carts.

We request a favorable report on Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_. We support the introduction of this legislation and believe it would benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. Thank you for your consideration as well as your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
T:/Consent/2024/

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator

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Buffy Giddens, Deputy County Attorney  
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**House Bill \_\_\_\_ - St. Mary's County Golf Carts on Public Highways**

**SUPPORT**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Delegate \_\_\_\_\_, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_ Committee  
House Office Building, Room 101  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman \_\_\_\_\_:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County support House Bill #: \_\_\_\_ - St. Mary's County Golf Carts on Public Highways which is being heard in the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. This bill, if enacted into law, would grant the Commissioners the ability to designate by subsequent resolution certain roads in St. Mary's County for the legal, safe operation of golf carts.

We request a favorable report on House Bill \_\_\_\_\_. We support the introduction of this legislation and believe it would benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. Thank you for your consideration as well as your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
T:/Consent/2024/

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
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