

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 393

H.P. 313

House of Representatives, January 30, 2003

An Act Authorizing the Operation of Low-speed Vehicles on Certain Roads

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MARLEY of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Senator HALL of Lincoln and
Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, GERZOFKY of Brunswick, KOFFMAN of Bar
Harbor, McKENNEY of Cumberland, O'NEIL of Saco, RINES of Wiscasset, SULLIVAN of
Biddeford.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** recent advances in technology have allowed the
development of certain low-speed vehicles; and

8 **Whereas,** these low-speed vehicles are important as they
represent the cutting edge of transportation technology that does
not rely solely on gasoline or diesel fuel, reducing both
pollution and the State's reliance on oil-based fuel; and

10
12 **Whereas,** the advancement of this technology relies on public
relations efforts and competition in the form of rallies and
races, which take place primarily during the summer; and

14
16 **Whereas,** the effective date of this legislation would fall
after the season for low-speed vehicle rallies and races; and

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20 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

22
24
26 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

28 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§2-A.** as amended by PL 2001, c.
197, §4, is further amended to read:

30 **2-A. Island vehicles and golf carts.** The following
provisions apply to vehicles operating on islands that have no
public ways maintained or supported by the State.

32 A. Notwithstanding subsection 1, an automobile may be
34 registered for an annual fee of \$4. A ~~low-speed-vehicle-or~~
36 golf cart may be registered for an annual fee of \$4. The
38 registrant must show evidence of payment of the excise tax
40 required by Title 36, section 1482. The municipality may
collect an additional \$4 fee annually to defray the cost of
removing abandoned vehicles or golf carts.

42 B. A ~~low-speed-vehicle-or~~ golf cart may be operated on an
44 island if the governing body of the municipality allows. A
46 ~~low-speed-vehicle-or~~ golf cart may be operated only on a
road or street where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per
hour or less. A ~~low-speed-vehicle-or~~ golf cart may cross,
48 at an intersection, a road or street with a posted speed
limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

2 C. Any person operating a ~~low-speed vehicle~~ or a golf cart
on an island must possess a valid driving license in any
class.

4 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §501, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

6 **11. Low-speed vehicles.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, a
8 low-speed vehicle may be registered for an annual fee of \$4. The
10 registrant must provide a certificate of title required by
12 section 651, proof of financial responsibility required by
section 1601 and evidence of payment of the excise tax required
by Title 36, section 1482.

14 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1752, sub-§8, ¶C**, as repealed and replaced
by PL 1997, c. 437, §42, is amended to read:

16 C. Has a partial annual inspection of running gear,
18 steering mechanism, brakes and exhaust system and tires
under section 1917, subsection 3; and

20 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §1752, sub-§9**, as enacted by PL 1993, c.
22 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

24 **9. Registered in this State.** A motor vehicle registered in
this State displaying a valid certificate of inspection from
26 another state or a federally approved commercial vehicle
inspection program until its normal expiration; and

28 **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §1752, sub-§10** is enacted to read:

30 **10. Low-speed vehicle.** A low-speed vehicle registered
32 pursuant to section 501, subsection 11.

34 **Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §1925** is enacted to read:

36 **§1925. Low-speed vehicles**

38 **1. Equipment required.** A low-speed vehicle registered
pursuant to section 501, subsection 11 must be equipped with:

- 40 A. Brakes for each wheel;
- 42 B. Headlights;
- 44 C. Odometer;
- 46 D. One exterior rearview mirror;
- 48 E. One interior rearview mirror;

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