

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 215

(Senator Eckardt)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

---

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

---

This bill authorizes a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting in the Town of Vienna in Dorchester County between dawn and dusk on a local highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour. The Town of Vienna may designate locations within the town where a golf cart may be operated.

The golf cart must be kept as far to the right of the roadway as feasible, and the driver must have a valid driver's license. A golf cart operating in the Town of Vienna under the bill's authorization is exempt from the general requirement that each motor vehicle driven on a highway in the State be registered. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**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 Garrett County and certain golf carts in Allegany County, Smith Island, the City of Crisfield in Somerset County, and the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County.

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. The Motor Vehicle Administration does not currently have a registration class specific to golf carts.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 330 (Delegate Mautz, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Dorchester County; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2018  
mm/ljm Third Reader - February 20, 2018  
Enrolled - May 2, 2018  
Revised - Amendment(s) - May 2, 2018

---

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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