

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 23 (Dorchester County Delegation)  
Environment and Transportation

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**Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island**

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This bill authorizes a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting on Upper or Middle Hoopers Island in Dorchester County between dawn and dusk on a highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour. The County Council of Dorchester County may designate by resolution highways on Upper or Middle Hoopers Island on which 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 pursuant to the bill's authorization is exempt from the general requirement that each motor vehicle driven on a highway in the State be registered.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**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 Allegany and Garrett counties and certain golf carts in Allegany County, Smith Island, the City of Crisfield in Somerset County, the community

of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County, and the Town of Vienna in Dorchester 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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 94 (Senator Eckardt) - Judicial Proceedings.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 13, 2020  
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