

**MML-HB 43 - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

TESTIMONY

February 1, 2024

**Committee:** House Environment and Transportation

**Bill:** \_\_\_\_\_ HB 43 - Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts -  
Authorization

**Position:** Favorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 43 which will authorize municipalities to designate roadways under their jurisdiction as permissible on which to drive golf carts, subject to certain limitations. This new state-wide authority would provide several tangible benefits to the community.

Municipalities generally embrace new ways to improve the quality of life for their residents and businesses, and this is another example. Golf carts provide a safe, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, cost-effective, and convenient way to travel short distances around town. The bill establishes parameters the golf cart driver must obey to operate the vehicle safely.

The vision of golf carts on roadways has already been piloted in the State in a few areas; Crisfield was first authorized to have golf carts on their roadways in 2016. Tangible benefits are already being realized by allowing golf cart usage on roadways; they ease the parking crunch, promote economic development by assisting with mobility to shops and restaurants, and they are quieter than cars.

The new authority provided in HB 43 should significantly assist municipalities address multiple transportation related issues by allowing golf carts on local roadways. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 43 with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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# **HB43 Golf Cart Legislation Testimony - Crisfield.p**

Uploaded by: Darlene Taylor

Position: FAV

Darlene Taylor, Mayor  
City Council:  
Ivan Lankford, Council V.P.  
Eric Banks  
Casey Goldsborough  
LaVerne Johnson  
Ruthie E. Todd

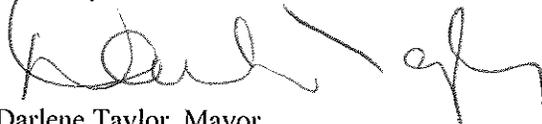
City of Crisfield  
City Hall  
319 W. Main Street  
Crisfield, Maryland 21817

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## CRISFIELD GOLF CART LEGISLATION PROCESS

- **Impact of Golf Cart Legislation**
  - Golf carts are a great transportation addition for our rural community
    - We do not have heavy usage but, golf carts are an important factor in creating equitable access to get around our town
      - As the grocery stores and other stores have moved further out of the main uptown area, our citizens without cars can rent a golf cart to get around to stores and events
    - They are equally important for our tourists to be able to easily access our main attractions like our Marina and our City Dock
  - We have had no safety issues to date with our Golf Carts
- **The Approval Process**
  - Getting golf cart approval was a Lengthy and tedious process particularly for a small municipality with limited resources.
  - It took 4 years to get through the entire process; Going through the initial preparation, the first approval wasn't received until 2016, but was still not fully approved, with restrictions removed, until 2018, countless hours were spent documenting, testifying, including travelling, and garnering support for the legislation
- **Benefits to Local Government Approval**
  - Municipalities are responsible for their roads and for the safety of their citizens, they understand their transportation needs and what works best in their communities. They should have the authority to decide if golf carts can be safely integrated into their transportation arsenal
  - Streamlining the process reduces the time from Municipalities requesting approval (at which point, the Municipality has decided golf carts would benefit their community, and can be safely integrated) to having their request approved/denied by the legislature, which depending on the timing, can be a lengthy process

Sincerely,



Darlene Taylor, Mayor

**020 LOS HB 43 CSMC signed.pdf**

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV



**House Bill 43**

Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts – Authorization

**SUPPORT**

January 30, 2024

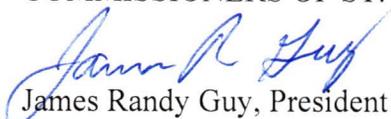
Delegate Marc Korman, Chairman  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Korman:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT House Bill 43 - Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Authorization** which is being heard in the Environment and Transportation Committee.

We support HB 43 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. 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/2024/020

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Todd Morgan  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

# **853929 speed limit change to 35.pdf**

Uploaded by: Vaughn Stewart

Position: FAV



**HB0043/853929/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

29 JAN 24  
17:06:51

BY: Delegate Stewart

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 43

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 4, in line 21, strike “**30**” and substitute “**35**”.

**HB 43 FAV Del Stewart.pdf**

Uploaded by: Vaughn Stewart

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB43**

Testimony by Delegate Vaughn Stewart

February 2, 2024 • Environment and Transportation Committee

**What the Bill Does**

HB 43 would legalize the use of golf carts on roads statewide, by authorizing counties and municipalities to determine whether or not to allow golf carts and small vehicles to drive on highways within their jurisdictions. This bill would repeal certain existing golf cart authorizations, replacing these specific laws with a statewide standard for the operation of golf carts on state highways and county roads.

The only remaining state-level requirements would maintain that the golf cart must be operated:

- On roads where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less,
- Between dawn and dusk,
- Only if the golf cart is equipped with lighting devices,
- As far to the right of the road as is feasible, and
- By a driver with a valid driver's license.

**Why the Bill is Important**

Every year, the Maryland General Assembly spends countless hours handling individual petitions from localities to allow golf carts and other small vehicles on their roads. For example, in 2017, [HB176](#) (Chapter 710) was passed to allow golf carts to travel on roads in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls, in St. Mary's County. In 2018, the legislature passed two separate bills ([SB215/SB353](#), Chapters 175/541) concerning the towns of Crisfield and Vienna, in the counties of Somerset and Dorchester, respectively. Several previous bills - including a 2021 bill ([SB604](#)) applying to Cecil County and a 2022 bill ([SB703](#)) applying to Frederick County - have ultimately failed, even though they maintained the same safety measures included in other golf cart laws.

These petitions consume valuable legislative time and energy. What's more, making these decisions at the state level denies authority to those who are best positioned to decide. How

should lawmakers in Annapolis know whether allowing golf carts on county roads is right for a community in St Mary's or Somerset County?

### **Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably**

Passing this bill returns to the counties a discretion which should have been theirs in the first place: what kinds of vehicles are allowed on their roads. HB 43 will make their lives easier, as they will no longer have to come to Annapolis, begging for permission, and our lives easier, as we no longer have to spend valuable committee time on these requests.

Moreover, golf carts are good. They are simple to operate and maintain, they're less costly than traditional vehicles, and they're a boon to the environment.

**HB 43 is a small bill with big consequences, both for those of us in Annapolis and for city and county governments across our state. I urge a favorable report.**