



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.

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