

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1529 (Delegates Haddaway and Eckardt)
Environmental Matters

Vehicle Laws - Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device - Golf Carts

This bill expands the definition of electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD) to include a golf cart if operated by a person with a disability as designated under the Maryland Vehicle Law and repeals the requirement that it be a pedestrian device. The definition of “vehicle” is also altered to exclude a golf cart if operated by a person with a disability as designated under the Maryland Vehicle Law. Accordingly, at an intersection, a golf cart operated by such a person is subject to all traffic control signals. At any other place, however, the operator has the rights and is subject to the restrictions applicable to pedestrians under the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal general fund revenue decrease to the extent that fewer people are subject to traffic citations when using golf carts as assistive mobility devices. Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: Enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A “vehicle” is any device in, on, or by which any individual or property might be towed on a highway. A vehicle includes a low speed vehicle but excludes an EPAMD. An EPAMD is a pedestrian device that has two nontandem wheels, is self-balancing, and is powered by an electric propulsion system. The device also has a maximum speed capability of 15 miles per hour and is designed to transport one person.

At an intersection, a person using an EPAMD or wheelchair is subject to all traffic control signals, as specified. At any other place, however, a person using an EPAMD or wheelchair has the rights and is subject to the restrictions applicable to pedestrians under the Maryland Vehicle Law.

A person may apply to the Motor Vehicle Administration for the assignment of a parking placard if a medical professional, as specified, certifies that the person (1) has lung disease, to the extent specified; (2) has cardiovascular limitations that are classified to a certain level of severity; (3) is unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest; (4) is unable to walk without an assistive device, as specified; (5) requires a wheelchair for mobility; (6) has lost a foot, leg, hand, or arm or its use; or (7) has permanent vision impairment to the extent specified in the Maryland Vehicle Law. A person also qualifies for the placard if the person has lost a foot, leg, hand, or arm and self-certifies the condition, as required by the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1038 (Senator Colburn) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 20, 2009
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Analysis by: Karen D. Morgan

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