

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

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

Senate Bill 1097  
(Senator Bates)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicle Registration - Exception for Municipal RTV Utility Vehicles - Town of Sykesville**

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This bill authorizes a person to operate a municipal RTV utility vehicle equipped with approved lighting in the Town of Sykesville in Carroll County between dawn and dusk on a local highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. The Carroll County Department of Public Works, in consultation with the State Highway Administration, may designate the local highways on which a person may operate a municipal RTV utility vehicle.

The municipal RTV vehicle must be kept as far to the right of the roadway as feasible, and the driver must have a valid driver's license. A municipal RTV vehicle operating under 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 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:** None.

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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 Garrett County and certain golf carts in Allegany County,

Smith Island, and the City of Crisfield in Somerset 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 RTVs.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Carroll County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2017  
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