

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

Senate Bill 299

(Senator Waugh)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

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**Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls**

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This bill authorizes a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County between dawn and dusk on a county highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. The St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation may designate the county highways on which a person may operate a golf cart.

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 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:** 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 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 golf carts.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 176 (Delegate Morgan, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2017

kb/ljm Third Reader - February 17, 2017

Enrolled - May 3, 2017

Revised - Amendment(s) - May 3, 2017

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