

SB80 Dorchester Senator Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

ADDIE C. ECKARDT
Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
601 Locust Street, Suite 202
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-221-6561

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 24, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

As the sole Senator on the Dorchester County Delegation, I am writing in support of **Senate Bill 80 - Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Taylors Island**. This legislation would authorize a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting on Upper or Middle Hoopers Island or Taylors Island in Dorchester County on designated county highways. This legislation was indicated as a major priority for the Dorchester County Council for this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 80 and I urge a favorable report. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt

SB80 Letter of Support - House.pdf

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

**COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 26
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613
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**JAY L. NEWCOMB, PRESIDENT
LIBBY HANDLEY NAGEL, VICE PRESIDENT
WILLIAM V. NICHOLS
GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR.
RICKY C. TRAVERS**



**DONNA F. LANE
ACTING COUNTY MANAGER
E. THOMAS MERRYWEATHER
COUNTY ATTORNEY**

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Delegate
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 193 Entitled "Motor Vehicle Registration -
Exceptions for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island"**

Dear Delegate Barve, Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 193 entitled "Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island" which will authorize the operation of golf carts by an individual who possesses a valid driver's license on a highway on Upper or Lower Hoopers Island and on Taylors Island.

The golf cart must be operated on a highway on which the maximum speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hour. It shall be equipped with lighting devices for visibility purposes. Also, pursuant to this legislation, since the roads in the Upper and Middle Hoopers Island and Taylors Island are County roads, the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland may designate, by resolution, the County highways in this area on which a person may operate a golf cart.

The County Council respectfully asks that you look favorably upon House Bill 193. Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. Please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay L. Newcomb, President

jln/dl

cc: The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Delegate

SB80 Testimony House.pdf

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

ADDIE C. ECKARDT
Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
and Wicomico Counties



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
601 Locust Street, Suite 202
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Testimony for Senate Bill 80
Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island
March 24, 2022

Chairman Barve and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 80: Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island. This bill authorizes an individual to operate a golf cart on local county highways on Upper and Middle Hoopers Island, as well as Taylors Island in Dorchester County.

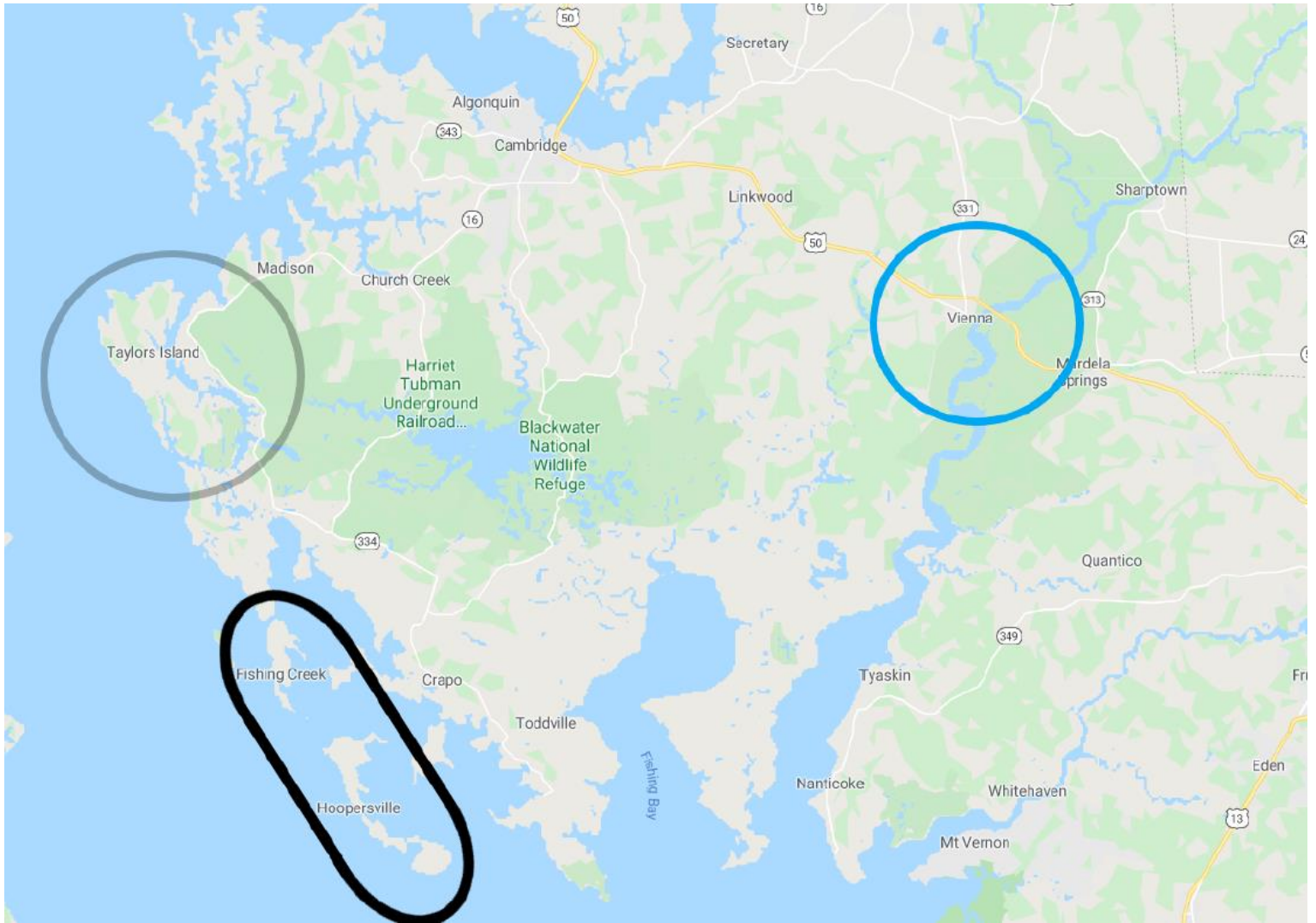
Senate Bill 80 is similar to legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2018, which created an exception for golf carts in Vienna. As a request from Dorchester County, this legislation will promote tourism and expand accessibility on the islands. The bill will help maintain rural landscapes and natural resources, while also giving residents and tourists another method of transportation. Senate Bill 80 passed the Senate unanimously and will continue to encourage tourism and economic development in Dorchester County.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 80.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt



SB0080 - MVA - Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Tay

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 80 – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Taylors Island

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 80 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 80 allows Dorchester County’s County Council to designate that certain county highways on Upper Hoopers Island, Middle Hoopers Island, or Taylors Island which have a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or lower may allow the operation of golf carts by licensed drivers during certain hours. The golf cart operation is subject to restrictions such as requiring lighting devices, operating it only between dawn and dusk, that the operator must hold a driver’s license, and to keep the golf cart as far to the right as feasibly possible.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) does not provide vehicle registration for golf carts in the State, including in the other local jurisdictions on Maryland’s eastern shore that already have exemptions for the operation of golf carts on certain highways under certain conditions and meeting certain criteria. State highways crash data reports also do not have a categorization in accident reports that allow tracking of vehicle accidents in the State specifically involving golf carts.

The MDOT MVA thus does not find any impact to operations or to highway safety in the State under Senate Bill 80. As a result, the MDOT MVA wishes to convey that Senate Bill 80 represents a local policy change for a local jurisdiction that would match its peers of similar vehicle traffic levels and patterns if enacted by the Maryland General Assembly.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 80.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090