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James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

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 76 – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Cobb Island

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 76 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 76 allows Charles County's County Council to designate that county highways on Cobb 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 certain 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 76. As a result, the MDOT MVA wishes to convey that Senate Bill 76 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 76.

Respectfully submitted,

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