
February 24, 2022

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

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 475 – St. Mary’s County – Motor Vehicle
Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts***

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 475 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 475 allows St. Mary’s County Board of Commissioners to designate that county highways which have a posted speed limit of 35 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, and that the operator must hold a driver’s license.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) does not provide vehicle registration for golf carts in the State, including in the 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 House Bill 475. As a result, the MDOT MVA wishes to convey that House Bill 475 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 House Bill 475.

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