

HB 475 Sponsor testimony.pdf

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

The Honorable Delegate Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: St. Mary's County Delegation Bill
HB 475-St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts

Dear Delegate Barve and Members of the Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to present **HB 475-St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts**

The bill gives authority to the Board of County Commissioners to designate certain county roads "golf cart zones".

The bill defines that golf carts are permissible on those roads only as designated and authorized by the BOCC.

This committee and General Assembly passed similar legislation to allow the community of Golden Beach use golf carts, and it has been successful with no issues. This bill gives authority to the BOCC to identify other areas within the County where citizens can use golf carts in safely in the same manner.

This bill was asked for by the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners, and is supported unanimously by the St. Mary's County Delegation.

We would ask the Committee to give HB 475 a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan".

Matt Morgan,
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

HB 475 - SUPPORT - St. Mary's County.pdf

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Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

House Bill 475
St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration –
Exception for Golf Carts

SUPPORT

February 1, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT** HB475 – St. Mary's County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts which will be heard in the Environment and Transportation Committee.

We support HB 475 and urge a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/023

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Catherine Pratson, Acting Co-County Administrator
David Weiskopf, Acting, Co-County Administrator

HB0475 - MVA - Motor Vehicle Registration - Golf C

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Position: INFO



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

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 highway 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