



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

March 3, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 703 – Frederick County – Motor Vehicle
Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts***

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 703 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 703 allows the Frederick County Council 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 Senate Bill 703. As a result, the MDOT MVA wishes to convey that Senate Bill 703 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 703.

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