
January 18, 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 80 – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Taylors Island

Dear Chairman Smith 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,

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