

SB 80 Motor Vehicle Registration- Exception for Go

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

ADDIE C. ECKARDT
Legislative District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot
and Wicomico Counties



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3590 · 301-858-3590
800-492-7122 Ext. 3590
Fax 410-841-3087 · 301-858-3087
Adelaide.Eckardt@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
Subcommittee

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
601 Locust Street, Suite 202
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 80
Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island
January 18, 2022

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 80: Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island. This bill authorizes an individual to operate a golf cart on local county highways on Upper and Middle Hoopers Island, as well as Taylors Island in Dorchester County.

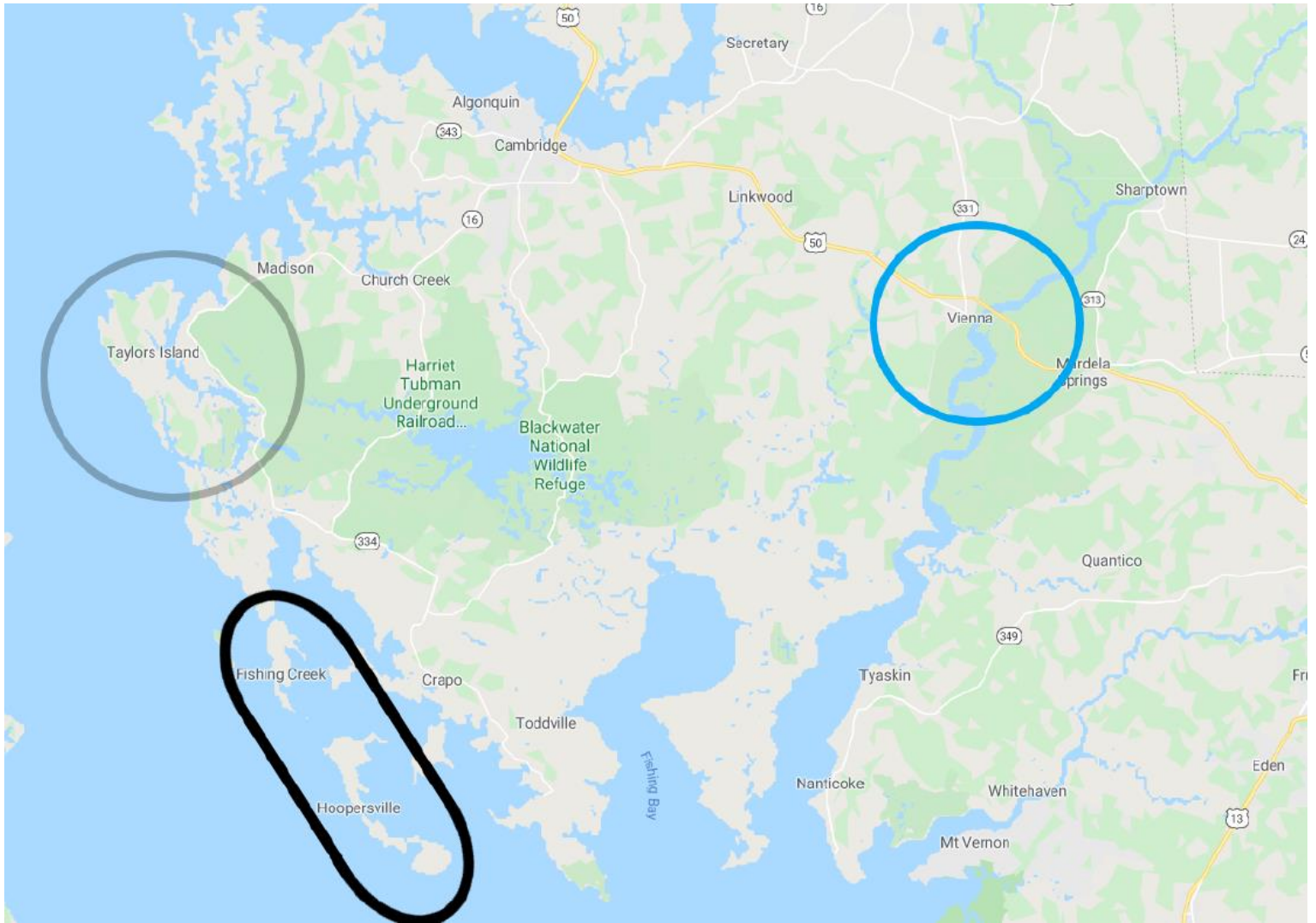
Senate Bill 80 is similar to legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2018, which created an exception for golf carts in Vienna. As a request from Dorchester County, this legislation will promote tourism and expand accessibility on the islands. The bill will help maintain rural landscapes and natural resources, while also giving residents and tourists another method of transportation. Senate Bill 80 passed the Senate unanimously last year and will continue to encourage tourism and economic development in Dorchester County.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 80.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt



SB0080 - MVA - Golf Carts – Hoopers Island and Tay

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090