

SB 374 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Danielle Mitchell

Position: FAV



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

February 14, 2023

Bill: SB374 – Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles – Cobb Island
Committee: Senate – Judicial Proceedings
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members:

On behalf of the Charles County Commissioners, this letter is to express the support of the Board for SB 374—Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles – Cobb Island.

SB 374 establishes exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts and low speed vehicles on Cobb Island in Charles County, and allows golf carts and low speed vehicles to be utilized on a highway on Cobb Island with certain stipulations. Specifically, SB 374 permits use of golf carts and low speed vehicles on highways which the maximum speed limit does not exceed 30 miles per hours, only between dawn and dusk, and requires the vehicles be equipped with lighting devices. Further, they must be operated to the far right of the roadway, and only by an individual with a valid driver's license. These are all important safety measures that the Board of Commissioners supports.

Residents of Cobb Island sought this legislation to allow for golf carts and low speed vehicles to be lawfully used on the island, and we support their request. This appears to be similar legislation to previously enacted laws allowing for the use of golf carts within certain communities in Allegany, Somerset, St. Mary's, and Dorchester counties, which have benefited those communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for SB 374.

Sincerely,

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation

Golf Cart Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Faye Hilton

Position: FAV

Cobb Island Citizens Association

PO Box 268

Cobb Island, MD 20625

February 14, 2023

Dear Charles County Senators,

I am writing on behalf of the Cobb Island Citizens Association to request your assistance in legalizing golf carts on Cobb Island.

In July 2021, Cobb Island Citizens voted unanimously to legalize golf carts. The reasoning is as follows:

1. Legalization requires a valid driver license, and this requirement will exclude 11- to 16-year-olds from operating golf carts. Because they are not legal, we citizens, and Charles County police, have no recourse to reprimand or ticket, underage and unlicensed drivers. Unlicensed drivers operating golf carts causes safety risks to both the golf cart occupants, pedestrians, vehicles, and other golf carts. If golf carts are legalized, the unlicensed driver, and their parent, will be cited and their golf cart will be towed or picked up by their parents.
2. Licensed drivers must drive to the far right of the road. This requirement is common sense golf cart etiquette. The rule is not currently practiced, but legalization will require this rule, and those who don't abide will be cited.
3. Golf carts may not be operated between dusk and dawn. Once legalized, those abusing this rule, will be cited. Golf carts are currently being driven after dusk. Many don't have lights and the operators are putting themselves at risk, as well as pedestrians, vehicles, and other golf carts.

The Cobb Island Citizens Association and residents of Cobb Island support the legalization of golf carts. The island is small community of residents who enjoy driving their golf carts to and from island events, the market, restaurants, church, and the post office. They are enjoyable and an environmental and economic savings compared to vehicles. As the President of the Citizens Association, and a long-term island resident, I ask for your undivided support of legalizing golf carts on Cobb Island because legalization provides safety mechanisms and makes our island a safer place to live

On behalf of the Cobb Island Citizens Association board, and the island residents, I ask that you please present this bill for a vote and vote in favor of passing the bill to legalize golf carts on Cobb Island.

Sincerely,

Faye Hilton
President

Cobb Island Citizens Association

(240) 416 - 1750 | fhiltoncicavp@gmail.com