

MML-SB 316 - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 31, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: _____ SB 316 - Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts -
Authorization

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 316 which will authorize municipalities to designate roadways under their jurisdiction as permissible on which to drive golf carts, subject to certain limitations. This new state-wide authority would provide several tangible benefits to the community.

Municipalities generally embrace new ways to improve the quality of life for their residents and businesses, and this is another example. Golf carts provide a safe, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, cost-effective, and convenient way to travel short distances around town. The bill establishes parameters the golf cart driver must obey to operate the vehicle safely.

The vision of golf carts on roadways has already been piloted in the State in a few areas; Crisfield was first authorized to have golf carts on their roadways in 2016. Tangible benefits are already being realized by allowing golf cart usage on roadways; they ease the parking crunch, promote economic development by assisting with mobility to shops and restaurants, and they are quieter than cars.

The new authority provided in SB 316 should significantly assist municipalities address multiple transportation related issues by allowing golf carts on local roadways. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 316 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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004 LOS SB 316 CSMC signed.pdf

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

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



James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

Senate Bill 316
Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Authorization

SUPPORT

January 30, 2024

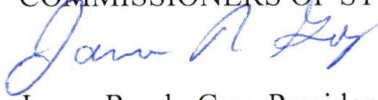
Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT Senate Bill 316 – Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts – Authorization** which is being heard in the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

We support SB 316 and request 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/2024/004

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

SB0316-173224-1.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA



SB0316/173224/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

17 JAN 24
11:22:02

BY: Senator Bailey
(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 316
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 4, in line 19, strike “**30**” and substitute “**35**”.

SenatorBailey_FWA_SB316.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
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Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

January 31, 2024

Senate Bill 316 – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Authorization

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 316 - Motor Vehicle Registration – Exceptions for Golf Carts – Authorization, which would allow counties and municipalities to permit the use of golf carts on county or municipal roads under certain circumstances.

Each session, this committee hears bills brought forward by individual communities requesting authorization to allow for the use of golf carts in their neighborhoods. There are several locations in our State that have received this authorization, including the community of Golden Beach located in my district. For the last several years, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have requested authorization to allow them to designate other communities where golf carts can be used. I believe that we should permit all of Maryland's counties and municipalities to have this authority without the General Assembly needing to consider legislation relating to each individual community that wants golf carts to be permitted. Local governments would be the best authority to determine what is most feasible and safe on their local roads.

This bill does not require a county or municipality to permit golf carts, it only gives them the authority to do so. It also includes several limitations on this authority to ensure that public safety is protected. As amended, golf carts can only be used on roads with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, between dawn and dusk, and with lighting devices as required by the MVA. The driver is also obligated to keep the golf cart as far to the right of the roadway as feasible. It is also important to note that this bill does not permit the use of golf carts on any State highways. These limitations are modeled after those that are in place for communities where golf cart use is currently authorized.

I am introducing with this bill an amendment that increases the maximum allowable speed limit for golf carts to 35 miles per hour. This is the maximum speed limit for Golden Beach, where golf carts have been legally permitted for several years without any major incidents that I am aware of. I respectfully request a favorable report with this amendment on Senate Bill 316. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey