

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

March 26, 2024

Bill:HB 440 – Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts - Cobb IslandCommittee:SENATE – Judicial ProceedingsPosition: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 HB 440—Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts – Cobb Island.

HB 440 establishes exceptions to motor vehicle registration requirements for golf carts on Cobb Island in Charles County, and allows golf carts to be utilized on a highway on Cobb Island with certain stipulations. Specifically, HB 440 permits use of golf carts 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 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 HB 440.

Sincerely,

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation

