

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

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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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