

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 309

(Senator Mathias)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Motor Vehicle Registration - Exception for Golf Carts - City of Crisfield

This bill authorizes a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting in the City of Crisfield between dawn and dusk on a local highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. The State Highway Administration, in consultation with the City of Crisfield, may also designate a location where a golf cart may cross a State or federal highway at a right angle.

The golf cart must be kept as far to the right of the roadway as feasible, and the driver must have a valid driver's license. A golf cart operating in the City of Crisfield under the bill's authorization is exempt from the general requirement that each motor vehicle driven on a highway in the State be registered.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven on a highway must be registered. Certain motor vehicles are exempt from this requirement, including certain snowmobiles in Garrett County and certain golf carts in Allegany County and on Smith Island. A "motor vehicle" is defined as a vehicle that, unless otherwise specifically exempted, is self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained from overhead electrical wires and not operated on rails. Certain vehicles, such as low-speed vehicles, bicycles, and motor scooters are restricted to certain highways based on the

maximum posted speed limit; they may be subject to different rules of the road than passenger cars and trucks. The Motor Vehicle Administration does not currently have a registration class specific to golf carts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1166 of 2011, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the House Environmental Matters Committee.

Cross File: HB 253 (Delegate Otto) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2016
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