

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 703

(Frederick County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

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Frederick County – Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts

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This bill authorizes a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting on a county highway in Frederick County with a maximum posted speed limit up to 35 miles per hour between dawn and dusk. Frederick County may, by local law, designate the county highways on which a person may operate a golf cart and establish further safety requirements and conditions for the operation of golf carts on county highways. 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 pursuant to the bill's authorization is exempt from the general requirement that each motor vehicle driven on a highway in the State be registered.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect Frederick County finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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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 Allegany and Garrett counties and certain golf carts in Allegany County, on Smith Island, in the City of Crisfield in Somerset County, in the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's County, and in the Town of Vienna in Dorchester County.

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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Frederick County; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2022  
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