

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 353

(Senator Mathias)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

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Motor Vehicles - Operation of Golf Carts on State Highways - City of Crisfield

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This bill expands the authorization for a person to operate a golf cart equipped with approved lighting in the City of Crisfield in Somerset County between dawn and dusk to encompass a *State* highway on which the maximum posted speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. 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.

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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:** Potential minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 257 of 2016 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 – but not a State or federal 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 within the city where a golf cart may cross a State or federal highway at a right angle.

Generally, each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven on a highway must be registered. However, certain motor vehicles are exempt from this requirement, including certain snowmobiles in Garrett County and certain golf carts in Allegany County, Smith Island, the City of Crisfield in Somerset County, and the community of Golden Beach Patuxent Knolls in St. Mary's 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. The Motor Vehicle Administration does not currently have a registration class specific to golf carts.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Somerset County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2018  
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