



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 785

PRINTERS NO. 1239

PRIME SPONSOR: Rafferty

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Motor License Fund	See "Fiscal Impact"	See "Fiscal Impact"
Municipal Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends Title 75 (Vehicle Code) to define the term "golf cart", provide for the designation of golf-cart crossings and for rules of operation for persons ages 12-16 as well as vehicles exempt from registration. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation makes the following changes to the Vehicle Code:

§102 (Definitions):

- Establishes a definition of 'golf cart' as a self-propelled motor vehicle designed and manufactured for the transportation of persons or equipment for sporting, maintenance or recreational purposes that is not capable of exceeding a speed of 20 miles per hour.

§1302 (Vehicles exempt from registration):

- Amends existing section to better reflect allowable usages according to the newly established definition;
- Allows low-speed utility vehicles to be used on public roads, not in excess of 1 mile, for college, university or seminary campus maintenance (in addition to golf course and resort maintenance).
- Permits all-terrain vehicles operated by police, EMS, or fire department personnel in an emergency to travel on the highway for a distance of no longer than 2 miles and authorizes the use of visual and audible signals according to §4571 (Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles).

Chapter 77A (Operation of Golf Carts):

- Establishes a new chapter in the Vehicle Code that governs the operation of golf carts.

§77A01 (Operation on highways):

- Authorizes golf carts to cross a highway at a 90 degree angle, where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- The golf cart must come to a complete stop prior to the crossing, and must yield the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic.

§77A02 (Designation of golf-cart crossings):

- PennDOT and local authorities may designate a golf-cart crossing and place official traffic-control devices at the crossing. Liability may not be imposed on PennDOT, other state agencies or political subdivisions as a result of such designation.
- Homeowners associations, private colleges or other private entities which find it beneficial to post a golf-cart crossing shall be responsible for the costs incurred by PennDOT or political subdivisions.

§77A03 (Operation by persons between 12 and 16 years of age):

- Individuals 12-16 years old may not cross any highway unless under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older.
- Individuals under the age of 12 may not operate a golf-cart.

FISCAL IMPACT: According to PennDOT, they anticipate an additional workload for existing staff to review locations, etc. but are unable to quantify any additional costs. However, homeowners associations, private colleges or other private entities would have to reimburse PennDOT or the municipality for any costs incurred.

This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on the General Fund or municipal funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 24, 2017

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.