

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 711

(Senator McKay)

Judicial Proceedings

Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Recreation Oversight Board - Establishment

This bill establishes the Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) Recreation Oversight Board to (1) advise the Secretary of Natural Resources on the operation, acquisition, regulation, and general oversight of OHRV trails and recreation in the State and (2) review expenditures from the OHRV Trail Fund in accordance with specified recommendations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s spending recommendations and any administrative and operating costs of the board are assumed to not affect overall expenditures from the OHRV Trail Fund. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes and provides for the membership of the OHRV Recreation Oversight Board, staffed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to (1) advise the Secretary on the operation, acquisition, regulation, and general oversight of OHRV trails and recreation in the State and (2) review expenditures from the OHRV Trail Fund. The board must meet at least quarterly.

Expenditures from the fund must be reviewed by the board in accordance with specified recommendations – specifically that, of the annual fund balance, (1) at least 25% be used for trail development; (2) at least 10% be used for OHRV trail maintenance; (3) at least

10% be used for the development or maintenance of camping sites, parking, or other infrastructure necessary to support OHRV riders and recreational activities on lands managed primarily for OHRV use; (4) at least 5% be used to lease lands for public OHRV use; and (5) at least 10% be authorized to advertise, promote, and market OHRV use and education in the State. The fund must be used to cover the administrative and operating costs of the board.

Current Law: Chapter 700 of 2018 established the OHRV Trail Fund to maintain and construct trails for OHRVs. The special, nonlapsing fund, which is administered by the Secretary of Natural Resources, consists of 50% of the revenue from the excise tax imposed for each certificate of title issued for an OHRV, money appropriated in the State budget for the fund, and any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund. Any interest earnings of the fund are credited to the general fund.

The fund may be used only to (1) maintain trails for OHRVs on State park land that was purchased or leased by DNR before January 1, 2017; (2) maintain and construct trails for OHRVs on State park land that is purchased or leased by DNR on or after January 1, 2017; and (3) maintain and construct trails for OHRVs on land that is not State park land that is purchased or leased by DNR. Money expended from the fund is supplemental to and not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for maintaining and constructing trails for OHRVs.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 857 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Garrett and Worcester counties; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2025
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