



Troy D. Berry
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff

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February 28, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Brave
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: HB 928 – Motor Vehicles – Of-the-Road Motorcycles – Local Regulation and Enforcement

Dear Chairman Brave,

The Charles County Sheriff's Office supports HB 928 entitled, Motor Vehicles – Of-the-Road Motorcycles – Local Regulation and Enforcement.

In recent years, Charles County has seen frequent and increasing misuse of off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles. Our county has seen individuals engaged in reckless driving behavior on public roads – weaving in and out of traffic, “popping wheelies,” obstructing traffic, and generally placing our citizens in fear.

From 2019 through 2022, the Charles County Sheriff's Office handled **4,076** calls related to ATV's and dirt bikes, including 792 in 2022 alone. As spring returns to the area, we expect to continue to have to respond to this problem.

Apprehending the individuals involved in this behavior poses challenges. Maryland law prohibits unregistered motor vehicles, such as all-terrain vehicles, from being operated on a highway. Despite that law, the Sheriff's Office has seen a growing trend of individuals operating off-road vehicles on our public roads in reckless and dangerous manners. These individuals often elude or attempt to elude police.

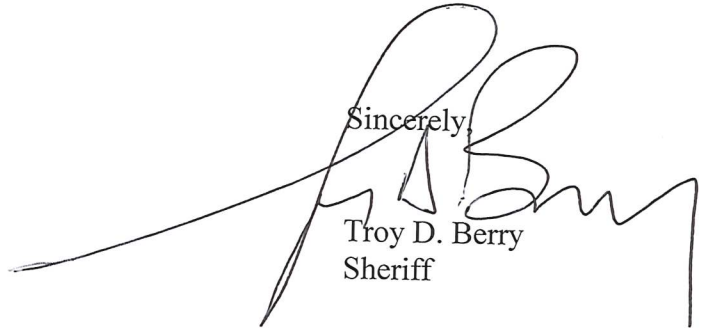
When officers are able to catch the individuals in the act, the vehicle they used may be towed to a private facility. In the absence of regulations allowing for the seizure of these vehicles, the owners are able to quickly recover the vehicle and officers repeatedly encounter the same individuals on the same vehicles engaged in the same behavior.

HB 928 represents an important first step in allowing local jurisdictions to address this serious conduct.

For these reasons, the Charles County Sheriff's Office requests a favorable report on HB 928. Thank you for the attention you are providing to this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Troy D. Berry
Sheriff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy D. Berry', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.