



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 27, 2025

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 711 – Third Reader

SHORT TITLE: Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Oversight Board - Establishment

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports SB 711 as amended. This bill establishes a new board to advise the Secretary of the Department on the operation, acquisition, regulation, and general oversight of off-highway recreational vehicle trails and recreation in the State. Improving existing locations and identifying new locations for riders of off-road vehicles in Maryland remains a priority for the Department. The riding community has been responsible for generating revenue for trail and facility development in Maryland, and funding from those efforts could eliminate the need to use general funds to oversee this group.

As amended, the bill would create a traditional advisory body responsible for providing non-binding advice to the Department. This is consistent with all other commissions advising the Department today.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department supports sustainable, well-regulated, and ecologically compatible off-road trail riding on public lands in Maryland. Currently, there are two locations where the riders of these vehicles can enjoy a safe and user-friendly experience – Wolf Den Run State Park in Kitzmiller and St. John’s Rock Trail in La Vale. In the meantime, off-road vehicle sales and rider interest continues to grow. The Department is working hard to meet that demand while acknowledging the value in partnering with the riders and retailers in this community to assist in those efforts. The Department also supports a relatively new Office of Outdoor Recreation, whose charge includes working with this user group as it relates to the existing and future trail riding opportunities in Maryland, creating a well-timed opportunity borne of this legislation.

BILL EXPLANATION

SB 711 requires the Department to establish an off-highway recreational vehicle oversight board.