

Commissioner Letter of Support_hb1283.ATV.pdf

Uploaded by: Debra Davis

Position: FAV



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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County Administrator

March 11, 2025

Bill: House Bill 1283 Charles County - Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles –
Regulation and Enforcement
Committee: House– Environment and Transportation
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Senator Korman Vice Chairwoman Boyce, and Members:

On behalf of the Charles County Commissioners, this letter is to express the support for HB 1283 Charles County - Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles - Regulation and Enforcement.

Charles County has experienced a significant increase in complaints involving the operation of off-road vehicles on our public roads in a reckless and dangerous manner, potentially endangering the lives of the operators and bystanders. Additionally, operators often trespass on private property, in violation of the rights of our County's property owners.

While these vehicles are already illegal for use on public roadways and private property without the permission of the owner, violators have not been adequately deterred, and often times resume the prohibited activity in short order by immediately reclaiming their off-highway vehicles from private tow companies immediately for law enforcement intervention. Off-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, when operated illegally, are a threat to other motor vehicles and pedestrians alike. For this reason, we support HB 1283 as a positive step by the General Assembly to curtail this increasingly common and dangerous problem.

HB 1283 thoughtfully includes violations of Maryland vehicle laws found in the Transportation Article, as well as trespass offenses found in the Criminal Law Article. With the enabling authority provided by HB 1283, our Board of County Commissioners will be well-positioned to craft a local law to implement rules and regulations that will help keep Charles County residents and visitors safe.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for HB 1283.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation

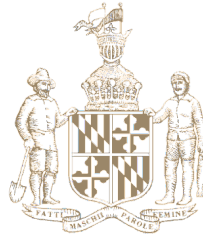
HB_1283_Davis_Testimony

Uploaded by: Debra Davis

Position: FAV

SENATOR ARTHUR ELLIS
SENATE CHAIR

SENATOR MICHAEL A. JACKSON



DELEGATE DEBRA M. DAVIS
HOUSE CHAIR

DELEGATE KEVIN M. HARRIS
DELEGATE EDITH J. PATTERSON
DELEGATE C. T. WILSON

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
CHARLES COUNTY DELEGATION

February 4, 2025

Good morning Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and members of the committee.

It is an honor to stand before you, on behalf of the Charles County Delegation, I am Camille Dickerson a Graduating Senior From University of Maryland obtaining my Bachelor's degree in Criminology. I am here today on behalf of the Chair of the Charles County Delegation Delegate Davis to urge your support of HB 1283– Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles—you may be familiar with this bill as it has been heard in committee before by Vice Chair Boyce. According to The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems ([MIEMSS](#)) ATV-related crashes have ended lives and injured thousands across Maryland, primarily among our children. Between 2001 and 2007, five children, including a two year old, died in ATV incidents. In just six years, over 9,000 people—one-third under age 15—were treated for off-road vehicle injuries, with more than 1,000 hospitalized, with two-thirds of trauma patients not wearing helmets.

These tragedies are preventable. Stronger regulations and enforcement are critical to protect our children and prevent more loss. With the support of HB1283 we can enact more regulations on these off-highway vehicles (OHV) that do not belong on the highways. OHVs like dirt bikes and ATVs are not designed for road use, yet we increasingly see them operating recklessly on public streets, endangering both riders and pedestrians. These vehicles often lack the necessary safety features such as headlights, turn signals, and proper braking systems, making them hazardous in traffic. This bill is not trying to take OHV away from our constituents but this law is saying that Charles County has the authority to regulate off-highway recreational vehicles (OHVs) and can impound (take and hold) these vehicles if they are involved in certain motor vehicle violations. For these reasons, I urge the committee's favorable report on HB1283. Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome any questions and are available for any further discussion.

Sincerely,

Camille Dickerson for,
Delegate Debra Davis, Esq.

Letter of Support HB 1283.pdf

Uploaded by: Jerome Spencer

Position: FAV



Troy D. Berry
Sheriff

Office of the Sheriff

Charles County, Maryland

Headquarters
6915 Crain Hwy - P.O. Box 189
La Plata, Maryland 20646-0189
301-609-6400



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March 5, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

The Honorable Regina Boyce
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: **HB 1283: Charles County – Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles**

Dear Chairman Korman and Vice Chair Boyce:

The Charles County Sheriff's Office supports HB 1283 entitled, Charles County – Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles.

For several years, Charles County has seen frequent 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. We also see individuals driving off-road vehicles on private and public property without permission. Not only does this behavior violate the Criminal Law, it also causes extensive property damage.

From 2020 through 2024, the Sheriff's Office received **5, 236** calls relating to ATVs and dirt-bikes, including **1,076** in 2024 alone. As of February 27, the Sheriff's Office has seen **110** such calls in 2025.

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.

Recognizing the need for action, the Charles County Commissioners submitted a request to our local delegation for a statute that would authorize the Commissioners to implement rules and regulations relating to off-road vehicles. The most critical component of that request is the ability to allow for the impoundment of vehicles used to violate both the traffic law and criminal trespass law. HB 1283 will give the Commissioners that authority.

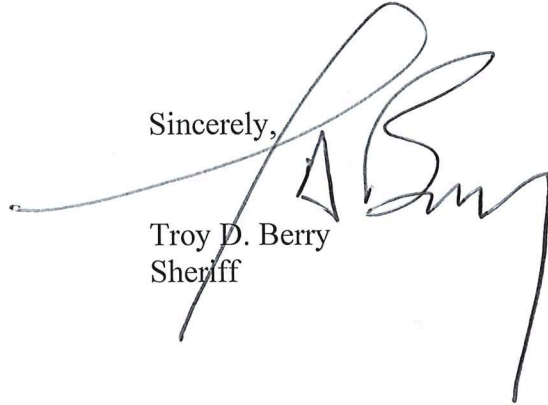
This is, and has been, an issue of great concern for the citizens of Charles County. Passing HB 1283

will not, of course, end the problem, but HB 1283 *will* give the County Commissioners a new tool that can be used to deter the behavior.

For these reasons, the Charles County Sheriff's Office requests a favorable report on HB 1283. 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. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'T' and 'B'.

HB1283 - MVA - LOI – Charles County – Off-Highway

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1283 – Charles County – Off-Highway
Recreational Vehicles – Regulation and Enforcement***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1283 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 1283 authorizes Charles County to regulate off-highway recreational vehicle operation and requires that these vehicles be registered with the County and subject to impoundment for violations.

Maryland law requires off-road vehicles (ORV) to be titled with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). From Fiscal Year 2022 to February 2024, MVA issued 27,828 titles for all off-road vehicles currently eligible for titles. The MVA issues a decal to applicants to place on the ORV to indicate the title; decals include the title number which can be looked up by certain individuals, such as law enforcement, who are provided access to the MVA’s vehicle database.

When an ORV is sold by the original owner, the new buyer is responsible for filing a title application with the MVA. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that a vast majority of these secondary sales tend to be via private sales rather than a retail store, and the new buyer is not necessarily aware that they are required to title the ORV. Further, there is not a viable means for the previous owner to cancel a title in their name with the MVA unless the new owner obtains a title once purchased under one of these secondary market transactions. In addition, many dirt bikes and other ORVs are sold by large chain stores that do not provide titling services or advise buyers of these requirements. As these stores are not licensed dealerships the way a vehicle dealer is, the MVA has no means to audit their sales and ensure compliance with requirements for titling services with purchases.

While these factors cause challenges for titling requirement compliance due to a lack of uniform knowledge or means to educate buyers on the titling process or necessity, the standards of having the MVA be the sole government authority in Maryland where vehicle titles and registrations are issued does provide a uniformity and certainty for operators, owners, and law enforcement. The proposed legislation in House Bill 1283 would alter that dynamic, including for non-residents of Charles County who seek to operate ORVs within its jurisdiction.

The Honorable Marc Korman
Page Two

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1283.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090