



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Mark Belton
County Administrator

March 5, 2025

Bill: Senate Bill 912 Charles County - Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles - Regulation and Enforcement
Committee: Senate– Judicial Proceedings
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Senator Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members:

On behalf of the Charles County Commissioners, this letter is to express the support for SB 912 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 SB 912 as a positive step by the General Assembly to curtail this increasingly common and dangerous problem.

SB 912 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 SB 912, 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 SB 912.

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