



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

---

March 4, 2025

**BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 711 – First Reader**

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

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

**EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

---

The Department supports SB 711 with amendments. This bill establishes a new board to review and approve the Department’s expenditures for the design, maintenance, and future development of off-highway (off-road) trails and features for riders of all-terrain style vehicles. 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.

The amendments remove the mandatory review, approval, and expenditure details from the bill. 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.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services (Acting)  
emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8426 (office) ♦ 443-223-1176 (cell)

BY:  
(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 711  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “and” in line 4 down through “expenditures” in line 5.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 10, strike “**SHALL:**” and substitute “**SHALL**”; in line 11, strike “**(1)**”; in the same line, strike “**ADVISE**” and substitute “**ADVISE**”; and strike beginning with “**STATE;**” in line 13 down through “**SECTION**” in line 15” and substitute “**STATE**”.

On pages 3 through 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 3 through line 5 on page 4, inclusive.