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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

Date: March 10th, 2026

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 751
BILL TITLE: Vehicle Laws - Required Security -Exemption of Farm Area Motor
Vehicles
MDA POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) respectfully submits this letter in support of *Senate Bill 751 - Vehicle Laws - Required Security - Exemption of Farm Area Motor Vehicles*, with amendments.

Senate Bill 751 creates exemptions for Maryland farmers from the requirement of possessing expansive insurance policies for certain registered farm vehicles. Under current law, “farm area motor vehicles” are owned and operated only on a farm or on a highway within a 25-mile radius of the farm. These vehicles and classifications are critical to supporting the agricultural community and provide needed financial relief. Farm area motor vehicles are restricted in their operability on state highways and broad travel, and are concentrated in low population rural areas. SB 751 matches the limited scope of farm area motor vehicles in operation to a more limited scope for insurance requirements.

While the exemptions provided are broad and inclusive, there are necessary amendments that must be made to ensure that certain scenarios do not conflict with state and federal regulations, including if a farm area vehicle is engaged in “for hire operations” or if the vehicle is hauling hazardous materials. The department recognizes and supports the amendments proposed by the Maryland Department of Transportation to ensure that the spirit of this bill is met while ensuring that necessary protections are in place.

MDA supports SB 751 as a practical opportunity to support Maryland farmers while maintaining appropriate safeguards to highway safety, and respectfully requests a favorable report with the proposed amendments.

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