



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair and  
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: **HB 972 – Motor Vehicles – Off-Highway Vehicles – Clarifications and Revisions**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 972**. This bill clarifies and harmonizes certain provisions of law governing off-highway recreational vehicles and other similar off-highway motor vehicles.

Across the state off-road motorcycles, commonly referred to as dirt bikes or minibikes, and all-terrain vehicles have wreaked havoc on local roads. Individuals with these vehicles often gather in large groups, taking over the roads and putting pedestrians and other drivers in danger. HB 972 requires owners of certain off-highway vehicles to obtain a motor vehicle certificate of title and requires motor vehicle dealers to provide electronic motor vehicle title services. The bill authorizes local jurisdictions to impose further regulations, register or permit, and charge registration fees for off-highway motor vehicles. Local jurisdictions are also able to enforce Maryland Vehicle Law and enact and implement local legislation governing vehicles suspected to be in violation of such law as a result of this bill.

Irresponsibly driven off-road motorcycles are a danger to the community. Local governments and their law enforcement agencies deserve the authority to manage them for the safety of both drivers and pedestrians. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 972** and urges a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.