



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 972

Motor Vehicles - Off-Highway Vehicles - Clarifications and Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: February 29, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 972. This bill enables counties to establish speed limits for off-highway vehicles on county roadways.

Off-highway vehicles are commonly associated with outdoor recreation in mountainous or rural environments and occupy an odd nexus between a traditional motor vehicle and lesser recreational devices. Increasingly, off-highway vehicles are being used in suburban and urban environments, both out of the scope of intended use and in some cases, to the detriment of the surrounding community. HB 972 seeks to clarify state and local authority by explicitly stating that both levels of government have the ability to regulate the speed of these vehicles on state and county highways.

This bill is a commonsense measure aimed at protecting Marylanders. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 972 a **FAVORABLE** report.