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—
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Housing and Real Property

Chair
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 29, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Korman, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce presenting **HB972 - Motor Vehicles - Off-Highway Vehicles - Clarifications and Revisions.**

HB972 provides clarity and consistency in regulations governing off-highway recreational vehicles. The bill creates consistency of “Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV)” throughout the transportation article, and defines the four types of OHRV’s. The use of consistent terms and definitions ensures consistency in interpretation and application across the state.

One of the key changes in HB972 is highlighting the requirement of all OHRV’s to be titled with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), and mandates OHRV dealers to electronically title the OHRV at the time of purchase or contract with an entity that provides electronic titling services. This ensures that all OHRV’s adhere to standard titling requirements. This modernizes the titling process and improves efficiency for both dealers and buyers.

HB972 also grants local jurisdictions the authority to regulate the operation of OHRV’s within their jurisdiction, and give authorization to enforce Maryland Vehicle Law for violations involving off-highway recreational vehicles on highways within their jurisdiction. This allows for more localized control and enforcement of regulations based on specific community needs and conditions. Additionally, local jurisdictions can enact legislation governing the impoundment and release of OHRV’s suspected of being involved in violations.

Overall, the bill emphasizes modernization, efficiency, and improved regulation of off-highway vehicles while authorizing local control and clarity in legal frameworks.

I thank the Committee for their time and consideration for support of HB972.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Regina T. Boyce'.

Regina T. Boyce