



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kumar Barve, 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: March 2, 2023

RE: **HB 928 – Motor Vehicles - Off-the-Road Motorcycles - Local Regulation and Enforcement**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 928**. This bill authorizes counties and municipalities to regulate and register off-road motorcycles.

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. Unfortunately, law enforcement's hands are often tied in their ability to address these dangerous drivers. Under current law, counties are limited to being able to require registration and charge registration fees and municipalities have no oversight authority. Even if individuals are ticketed for violating registration laws, they can go back on the road to create chaos again.

HB 928 gives local governments a tool in the toolbox for addressing these problematic off-road motorcycle drivers. The bill grants both counties and municipalities the authority to regulate and enforce state motor vehicle laws against off-road motorcycles and to establish local laws governing the impoundment and forfeiture, if lawful, of off-road motorcycles. Under this bill, a local government can establish sensible laws that target repeat offenders via impoundment or forfeiture, if lawful, to better keep them off the roads.

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 928** and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.