

HOUSE BILL 367

R6, M3

EMERGENCY BILL

9lr1807
CF SB 370

By: **Delegate Malone**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force – Extension and**
3 **Membership**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the duration of the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and
5 Pedestrian Safety Task Force; altering the membership of the Task Force;
6 altering the date on which the final findings and recommendations of the Task
7 Force are due; requiring the Task Force to report its final findings and
8 recommendations to the Governor; making this Act an emergency measure;
9 making a certain technical correction; and generally relating to the Maryland
10 Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Chapter 384 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008
13 Section 1 and 2

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Chapter 385 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008
16 Section 1 and 2

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Chapter 384 of the Acts of 2008**

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That:

22 (a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

23 (b) The Task Force consists of:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY**
2 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

3 **(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY**
4 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND**

5 **(3)** the following members, appointed by the Governor in consultation
6 with the Secretary of Transportation:

7 [(1)] **(I)** one representative from the Department of Transportation;

8 [(2)] **(II)** one representative from the Department of the
9 Environment;

10 [(3)] **(III)** two or three individuals who:

11 [(i)] **1.** represent the organized blind community in this
12 State;

13 [(ii)] **2.** are legally blind; and

14 [(iii)] **3.** have experience or expertise in training blind people
15 to travel safely and independently;

16 [(4)] **(IV)** two or three individuals representing pedestrian
17 organizations in this State; and

18 [(5)] **(V)** one representative of an organization representing the
19 interests of automobile manufacturers.

20 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its
21 membership.

22 (d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Task
23 Force from the Department of Transportation.

24 (e) A member of the Task Force:

25 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

26 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
27 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

28 (f) The Task Force shall:

29 (1) study:

- 1 (i) the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety; and
- 2 (ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind
3 pedestrians;
- 4 (2) review all available research regarding the effects of vehicle sound
5 on pedestrian safety;
- 6 (3) consult with:
- 7 (i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind,
8 other pedestrians, and cyclists; and
- 9 (ii) advocates for the safety of children;
- 10 (4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be
11 conducted;
- 12 (5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:
- 13 (i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental
14 quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other
15 relevant fields; and
- 16 (ii) interested members of the public; and
- 17 (6) make recommendations concerning:
- 18 (i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics
19 of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and [licensed]
20 **REGISTERED** in the State; and
- 21 (ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind
22 pedestrians.
- 23 (g) The Task Force is not required to specify the method or technology
24 through which automobile manufacturers must implement the recommended sound
25 standard.
- 26 (h) On or before December 31, [2008] **2010**, the Task Force shall report its
27 **FINAL** findings and recommendations to the [General Assembly] **GOVERNOR AND**, in
28 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, **THE GENERAL**
29 **ASSEMBLY**.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of **2 YEARS AND** 7 months and, at

1 the end of December 31, [2008] **2010**, with no further action required by the General
2 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

3 **Chapter 385 of the Acts of 2008**

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That:

6 (a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

7 (b) The Task Force consists of:

8 (1) **ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY**
9 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

10 (2) **ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY**
11 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND**

12 (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor in consultation
13 with the Secretary of Transportation:

14 [(1)] (I) one representative from the Department of Transportation;

15 [(2)] (II) one representative from the Department of the
16 Environment;

17 [(3)] (III) two or three individuals who:

18 [(i)] 1. represent the organized blind community in this
19 State;

20 [(ii)] 2. are legally blind; and

21 [(iii)] 3. have experience or expertise in training blind people
22 to travel safely and independently;

23 [(4)] (IV) two or three individuals representing pedestrian
24 organizations in this State; and

25 [(5)] (V) one representative of an organization representing the
26 interests of automobile manufacturers.

27 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its
28 membership.

1 (d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Task
2 Force from the Department of Transportation.

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

4 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

5 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
6 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

7 (f) The Task Force shall:

8 (1) study:

9 (i) the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety; and

10 (ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind
11 pedestrians;

12 (2) review all available research regarding the effects of vehicle sound
13 on pedestrian safety;

14 (3) consult with:

15 (i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind,
16 other pedestrians, and cyclists; and

17 (ii) advocates for the safety of children;

18 (4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be
19 conducted;

20 (5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:

21 (i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental
22 quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other
23 relevant fields; and

24 (ii) interested members of the public; and

25 (6) make recommendations concerning:

26 (i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics
27 of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and [licensed]
28 REGISTERED in the State; and

1 (ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind
2 pedestrians.

3 (g) The Task Force is not required to specify the method or technology
4 through which automobile manufacturers must implement the recommended sound
5 standard.

6 (h) On or before December 31, [2008] **2010**, the Task Force shall report its
7 **FINAL** findings and recommendations to the [General Assembly] **GOVERNOR AND**, in
8 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, **THE GENERAL**
9 **ASSEMBLY**.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of **2 YEARS AND** 7 months and, at
12 the end of December 31, [2008] **2010**, with no further action required by the General
13 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
15 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
16 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
17 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
18 the date it is enacted.