

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 12
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike “Advisory Committee” and substitute “Task Force - Reconstitution”; in line 4, strike “establishing” and substitute “reconstituting”; in lines 5, 6, 7, 8, and 14, in each instance, strike “Advisory Committee” and substitute “Task Force”; in line 9, strike “and” and substitute “; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive”; and in line 10, after “expenses;” insert “requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 3 through 5, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 27 on page 3 through line 13 on page 5, inclusive, and substitute:

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

(b) The Task Force consists of:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

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

(i) one representative from the Department of Transportation;

(Over)

(ii) one representative from the Department of the Environment;

(iii) two or three individuals who:
1. represent the organized blind community in this State;

2. are legally blind; and
3. have experience or expertise in training blind people to travel safely and independently;

(iv) two or three individuals representing pedestrian organizations in this State; and

(v) one representative of an organization representing the interests of automobile manufacturers.

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

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

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

- (f) The Task Force shall:
 - (1) study:
 - (i) the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety; and
 - (ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind pedestrians;
 - (2) review all available research regarding the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety;
 - (3) consult with:
 - (i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind, other pedestrians, and cyclists; and
 - (ii) advocates for the safety of children;
 - (4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be conducted;
 - (5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:
 - (i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other relevant fields; and
 - (ii) interested members of the public; and
 - (6) make recommendations concerning:

(i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and registered in the State; and

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

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

(h) On or before June 30, 2013, the Task Force shall report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 5, in line 15, strike “Secretary of Transportation” and substitute “Governor”; in line 16, strike “Advisory Committee” and substitute “Task Force”; and in lines 17 and 18, strike “Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety” and substitute “predecessor”.