

# SENATE BILL 12

R6, M3

EMERGENCY BILL

11r0955

---

By: **Senator Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2011

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force – Reconstitution**

3 FOR the purpose of reconstituting the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety  
4 Task Force; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force;  
5 providing for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task  
6 Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task  
7 Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force  
8 to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; making  
9 this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act;  
10 stating the intent of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the  
11 Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That:

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

15 (b) The Task Force consists of:

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

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

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

22 (i) one representative from the Department of Transportation;

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (iii) two or three individuals who:

4 1. represent the organized blind community in this  
5 State;

6 2. are legally blind; and

7 3. have experience or expertise in training blind people  
8 to travel safely and independently;

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

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

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

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

17 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

21 (f) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) study:

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

24 (ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind  
25 pedestrians;

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

28 (3) consult with:

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

- 1 (ii) advocates for the safety of children;
- 2 (4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be  
3 conducted;
- 4 (5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:
- 5 (i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental  
6 quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other  
7 relevant fields; and
- 8 (ii) interested members of the public; and
- 9 (6) make recommendations concerning:
- 10 (i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics  
11 of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and registered in the  
12 State; and
- 13 (ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind  
14 pedestrians.
- 15 (g) The Task Force is not required to specify the method or technology  
16 through which automobile manufacturers must implement the recommended sound  
17 standard.
- 18 (h) On or before June 30, 2013, the Task Force shall report its final findings  
19 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
20 Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the  
22 General Assembly that the Governor appoint to the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and  
23 Pedestrian Safety Task Force those individuals who formerly were appointed to the  
24 predecessor Task Force established under Chapter 249 of the Acts of the General  
25 Assembly of 2009 and who were serving on the Task Force as of December 31, 2010.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
27 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
28 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
29 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
30 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2013, and, at the end  
31 of June 30, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
32 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.