

# SENATE BILL 12

R6, M3

EMERGENCY BILL

11r0955  
CF HB 1223

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By: **Senator Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2011

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2011

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety ~~Task Force~~ Reconstitution**  
3 **Advisory Committee**

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

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That:

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

18 ~~(b) The Task Force consists of:~~

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

5           ~~(i) one representative from the Department of Transportation;~~

6           ~~(ii) one representative from the Department of the~~  
7 ~~Environment;~~

8           ~~(iii) two or three individuals who:~~

9                   ~~1. represent the organized blind community in this~~  
10 ~~State;~~

11                   ~~2. are legally blind; and~~

12                   ~~3. have experience or expertise in training blind people~~  
13 ~~to travel safely and independently;~~

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

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

18           ~~(e) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its~~  
19 ~~membership.~~

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

22           ~~(e) A member of the Task Force:~~

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

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

26           ~~(f) The Task Force shall:~~

27                   ~~(1) study:~~

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

29                   ~~(ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind~~

1 ~~pedestrians;~~

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

4 ~~(3) consult with:~~

5 ~~(i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind,~~  
6 ~~other pedestrians, and eyelists; and~~

7 ~~(ii) advocates for the safety of children;~~

8 ~~(4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be~~  
9 ~~conducted;~~

10 ~~(5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:~~

11 ~~(i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental~~  
12 ~~quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other~~  
13 ~~relevant fields; and~~

14 ~~(ii) interested members of the public; and~~

15 ~~(6) make recommendations concerning:~~

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

19 ~~(ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind~~  
20 ~~pedestrians;~~

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

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

27 (a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Advisory  
28 Committee.

29 (b) The Advisory Committee consists of the following members, appointed by  
30 the Secretary of Transportation:

31 (1) two or three individuals who:

1                   (i)    represent the organized blind community in the State;

2                   (ii)   are legally blind; and

3                   (iii) have experience or expertise in training blind people to  
4 travel safely and independently;

5                   (2)   two or three individuals representing pedestrian organizations in  
6 the State; and

7                   (3)   one representative of an organization representing the interests of  
8 automobile manufacturers.

9                   (c)   The Secretary shall appoint a chair of the Advisory Committee from its  
10 membership.

11                   (d)   The Department of Transportation may provide staff support for the  
12 Advisory Committee.

13                   (e)   A member of the Advisory Committee may not receive compensation or  
14 reimbursement for expenses as a member of the Advisory Committee.

15                   (f)   The Advisory Committee shall:

16                   (1)   study:

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

18                   (ii)   all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind  
19 pedestrians;

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

22                   (3)   monitor efforts by the federal government and the automobile  
23 industry to establish safety standards for hybrid and electric vehicles;

24                   (4)   consult with:

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

27                   (ii)   advocates for the safety of children;

1                    (iii) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental  
 2 quality, orientation and mobility for blind individuals, pedestrian safety, and other  
 3 relevant fields; and

4                    (iv) interested members of the public; and

5                    (5) advise the Secretary concerning:

6                    (i) the minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics  
 7 of the minimum sound that should be required for all new and used vehicles sold and  
 8 registered in the State; and

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

11                    (g) The Advisory Committee is not required to specify the method or  
 12 technology through which automobile manufacturers should implement the  
 13 recommended sound standard.

14                    SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the  
 15 General Assembly that the ~~Governor~~ Secretary of Transportation appoint to the  
 16 Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety ~~Task Force~~ Advisory Committee those  
 17 individuals who formerly were appointed to the ~~predecessor~~ Maryland Quiet Vehicles  
 18 and Pedestrian Safety Task Force established under Chapter 249 of the Acts of the  
 19 General Assembly of 2009 and who were serving on the Task Force as of December 31,  
 20 2010.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.