

SENATE BILL 752

R1

6lr2747

By: **Senators Klausmeier, Madaleno, and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration – Policy Concerning Sound Barriers Along**
3 **Highways**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration, in collaboration with
5 county governing bodies, to develop and adopt by regulation a policy concerning
6 sound barriers along highways in the State; requiring the Administration to conduct
7 a certain study concerning sound barriers along highways in the State and report its
8 findings to the Governor and the General Assembly; defining a term; and generally
9 relating to sound barriers along highways in the State.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 8–657

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 **8–657.**

19 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “SOUND BARRIER” MEANS A NATURAL OR AN**
20 **ARTIFICIAL BARRIER DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE TRANSFER OF SOUND FROM**
21 **TRAFFIC ALONG A HIGHWAY TO ADJACENT AREAS.**

22 **(B) THE ADMINISTRATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL**
23 **GOVERNING BODIES OF THE COUNTIES, SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT BY**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **REGULATION A POLICY CONCERNING SOUND BARRIERS ALONG HIGHWAYS IN THE**
2 **STATE.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

4 (a) The State Highway Administration shall conduct a study to:

5 (1) evaluate the effectiveness of the Administration's policy concerning
6 sound barriers under the regulations adopted under § 8-657 of the Transportation Article
7 as enacted by the Act, when applied to sound barriers that were installed along highways
8 in the State prior to the adoption of the regulations;

9 (2) determine the portion of the Administration's annual budget that is
10 spent on sound barriers along highways in the State; and

11 (3) evaluate any differences among the counties in the contracts awarded
12 for the construction of sound barriers along highways in the State and determine the costs
13 and benefits of any differences that are noted.

14 (b) On or before December 1, 2017, the Administration shall report the findings
15 of the study to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
16 General Assembly.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2016.