

# HOUSE BILL 388

E4

4lr1095

---

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary and Health and Government Operations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Law Enforcement – Sound Level Meters**

3 **PG 305–24**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to  
5 develop and publish online a policy for the issuance and use of a sound level meter  
6 by a law enforcement officer that addresses certain matters; requiring the Prince  
7 George's County Police Department to require the use of sound level meters, subject  
8 to a certain policy, by certain law enforcement officers on or before a certain date;  
9 requiring the Department of General Services, in coordination with the Department  
10 of Information Technology, to negotiate contracts, at the request of one or more law  
11 enforcement agencies, with third parties for the acquisition or maintenance of sound  
12 level meters, equipment, or technology for law enforcement agencies; and generally  
13 relating to the use of sound level meters by law enforcement agencies.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Public Safety

16 Section 3–531 and 3–532

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Public Safety**

22 **3–531.**

23 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
24 **INDICATED.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
2 **3–201 OF THIS TITLE.**

3           **(3) “SOUND LEVEL METER” MEANS A DEVICE USED FOR MEASURING**  
4 **THE INTENSITY OF NOISE AND OTHER SOUNDS.**

5           **(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING**  
6 **AND STANDARDS COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH ONLINE A POLICY**  
7 **FOR THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF A SOUND LEVEL METER BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
8 **OFFICER THAT ADDRESSES:**

9           **(1) THE TESTING OF SOUND LEVEL METERS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE**  
10 **FUNCTIONING;**

11           **(2) THE PROCEDURE FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO**  
12 **FOLLOW IF THE SOUND LEVEL METER FAILS TO PROPERLY OPERATE AT THE**  
13 **BEGINNING OF OR DURING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S SHIFT;**

14           **(3) WHEN MEASURING IS MANDATORY;**

15           **(4) WHEN MEASURING IS PROHIBITED;**

16           **(5) WHEN MEASURING IS DISCRETIONARY;**

17           **(6) CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
18 **AGENCY’S SOUND LEVEL METER POLICY; AND**

19           **(7) ANY ADDITIONAL ISSUES DETERMINED TO BE RELEVANT IN THE**  
20 **IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF SOUND LEVEL METERS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
21 **OFFICERS.**

22           **(C) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY POLICE**  
23 **DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE THE USE OF SOUND LEVEL METERS, SUBJECT TO THE**  
24 **POLICY ON THE USE OF SOUND LEVEL METERS DEVELOPED BY THE MARYLAND**  
25 **POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**  
26 **SECTION, BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS**  
27 **PART OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S OFFICIAL DUTIES.**

28           **(D) (1) THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
29 **DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A WRITTEN POLICY CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY**  
30 **PUBLISHED BY THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION**  
31 **UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE USE OF SOUND LEVEL METERS.**

1           **(2) A POLICY DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)**  
2 **OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL SPECIFY WHICH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**  
3 **EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE REQUIRED TO USE SOUND LEVEL METERS.**

4           **(E) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT**  
5 **NEGATE OR ALTER ANY OF THE REQUIREMENTS OR POLICIES ESTABLISHED IN**  
6 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.**

7 **3-532.**

8           **(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES, IN COORDINATION**  
9 **WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SHALL NEGOTIATE**  
10 **CONTRACTS, AT THE REQUEST OF ONE OR MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES,**  
11 **WITH THIRD PARTIES FOR THE ACQUISITION OR MAINTENANCE OF SOUND LEVEL**  
12 **METERS, EQUIPMENT, OR TECHNOLOGY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

13           **(2) THE CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
14 **SUBSECTION MAY INCLUDE CONTRACTS FOR ANY RELATED EQUIPMENT OR**  
15 **TECHNOLOGY DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF SOUND**  
16 **LEVEL METERS.**

17           **(3) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL NOTIFY ALL**  
18 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE CONTRACTS THAT ARE BEING NEGOTIATED**  
19 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY POSTING THE CONTRACTS ON**  
20 **EMARYLAND MARKETPLACE ADVANTAGE.**

21           **(B) THE CONTRACTS NEGOTIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
22 **SECTION SHALL PRIORITIZE:**

23           **(1) EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY THAT COMPLY WITH THE**  
24 **POLICIES DEVELOPED BY THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS**  
25 **COMMISSION UNDER § 3-531 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

26           **(2) EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY THAT CONFORM TO INDUSTRY**  
27 **STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES;**

28           **(3) COMPATIBILITY WITH DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT AND**  
29 **TECHNOLOGY; AND**

30           **(4) COST EFFECTIVENESS.**

1           **(C) FOR ANY CONTRACT NEGOTIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
2 **SECTION, THE RIGHT OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO RECEIVE SERVICES**  
3 **FROM AN ENTITY RELATED TO EDITING OR TRANSFERRING DATA FROM SOUND**  
4 **LEVEL METERS MAY NOT BE RESTRICTED IN ANY MANNER.**

5           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2024.