



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 304

DATE: February 9, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegates Lehman, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices

House Bill 304 would make it illegal to operate a motor vehicle that exceeds 95 decibels (with exceptions for registered historic vehicles and registered hot rod vehicles) and to authorize a police officer to issue a \$200 traffic ticket to the offending driver for a first violation (increasing to \$400 for the third offense and beyond) in addition to a mandatory safety equipment repair order. Further, the bill would provide that starting in fiscal year 2025, the Governor must include \$2 million in the budget for a grant program to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of motor vehicle sound detection equipment. Montgomery County Department of Police supports this legislation.

Vehicle exhaust noise complaints and growing numbers of street racing events on State and county roadways have continued to challenge local law enforcement agencies. These occurrences pose a traffic safety risk and affect residents' quality of life. With increased fines to discourage vehicle owners from purposefully changing their vehicles' exhaust systems, combined with new technology to enforce noise abatement on our roadways, House Bill 304 provides a pathway that may help the State to move toward quieter neighborhoods for all.

The Montgomery County Department of Police supports House Bill 304 and urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report.