



Prince George's County Municipal Association
An Association of 27 Municipalities



HOUSE BILL 304 – SUPPORT
Environment & Transportation Committee
February 7, 2023

The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes to **SUPPORT House Bill 304 - Motor Vehicles – Noise Limits and Modification of Exhaust Systems and Noise 3 Abatement Devices** which would establish a Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of equipment to measure the sound level of a motor vehicle in operation on a highway. It would also establish a maximum sound level limit that the Motor Vehicle Administration may set for motor vehicles and would require the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2025, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Program.

The operation of a motor vehicle creates traffic noise which can be harmful to residents as well as the environment. High noise levels can have negative health implications for individuals residing nearby and on the roads when there is consistent exposure. According to the CDC, noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time may start to damage your hearing and loud noise above 120 dB can cause immediate harm to your ears (National Center for Environmental Health, 2022). This bill would establish that maximum sound level limits are not to exceed 95 dB, for each type of new motor vehicle. In establishing such limits, the Administrator shall set the most restrictive level that, through the application of the best available technology at a reasonable cost, is consistent with attaining the environmental noise standards adopted by the Department of the Environment.

House Bill 304 sets the policies and funds in place to protect the health of Maryland's citizens and gives law enforcement the necessary guidelines to monitor sound levels of motor vehicles in operation on the highway. Therefore, PGCMA respectfully requests a **favorable** report for **House Bill 304**. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Wojahn".

Patrick Wojahn (He/Him/His)
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