



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 8, 2024

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 212 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 212 with amendment, which will significantly aid municipalities curb the rising problem of vehicles creating excessive noise. As introduced, the bill would grant municipalities in Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties the authority to install noise abatement monitoring systems. MML requests an amendment to expand that authority to local governments state-wide.

Currently, municipal police officers are permitted to stop a vehicle that emits a noise in excess of the noise emitted by the vehicle as originally manufactured, but they must do so based on their training and experience. Allowing municipalities to install noise abatement monitoring systems, after a transparent public process, accomplishes two key points:

- Reduces the instances that a police officer needs to make a traffic stop to issue a citation for a noise violation.
- More accurately assesses citations, as the noise abatement monitoring systems are precisely calibrated to a certain decibel level before recording an image of the vehicle.

The new authority provided in HB 212 should significantly assist municipalities to address the problem of excessively noisy vehicles operating on our roadways, which is occurring across the State. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 212 with a favorable report with this important amendment.

MML Amendment (page 4 line 24):

~~(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.~~

The provisions of HB 212 should significantly assist municipal governments curb the growing nuisance of excessively loud vehicles. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 212 with a favorable report, with the above amendment.



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