

HB0212_FAV_City of Rockville_Veh. Laws - Noise Aba

Uploaded by: Barry Jackson

Position: FAV



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 212 – Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems –
Authorization
SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chairman Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I'm Barry Jackson, Rockville City Councilmember and I thank you for this opportunity. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I want to thank Delegate Palakovich Carr for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 212, which authorizes local governments to install noise monitoring systems on roadways. In recent years, excessive noise from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust has negatively impacted our cities and towns by frightening those on sidewalks, in nearby cars, and disturbing residents in the privacy of their homes.

We strongly support the provisions of HB 212 for the following reasons:

- This legislation would help address the ongoing concerns our residents have regarding excessive noise disruptions.
- HB 212 would broadly expand the capability of the City Police to address this public nuisance, as there aren't enough police patrols in the City and Montgomery County to respond to noise violations through traffic enforcement.
- We saw a dramatic and positive change in driver behavior when speed and red-light cameras were installed in Rockville. HB 212 has the potential to have a similar impact by providing an incentive for drivers to comply with laws governing noise violations.

Automated noise monitoring systems are a promising new tool that could dramatically reduce noise pollution, excessive noise violations and restore peace and quiet for those enjoying a walk, a bike ride, or working from home. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 212 with a favorable report. Thank you.

HB0212WrayTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Brendan Wray

Position: FAV

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in support of HB0212 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization. I live along US Rt 1 and MD-193 and I frequently hear the sounds of illegally modified mufflers within my residence. The noise is disruptive and negatively affects my quality of life. Allowing remote monitoring and ticketing of illegal modified mufflers on Maryland roads would discourage their rampant usage.

Thanks,
Brendan Wray
College Park, MD

HB0212_testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Dullnig

Position: FAV

To whom it my concern,

I am fully in favor of this legislation.

Please implement it.

Thank you,

Chris Dullnig

Korman_HB0212_02062024.pdf

Uploaded by: FAZLUL KABIR

Position: FAV



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGE PARKMD.GOV

February 6, 2024

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Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for House Bill 0212 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement
Monitoring Systems - Authorization**

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The College Park City Council voted unanimously during the meeting of January 23, 2024, to support HB 0212, which would authorize the use of noise abatement monitoring systems in Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. We appreciate the sponsors who have brought forward this legislation.

Our neighborhoods have suffered from disturbances due to vehicles with illegal modified mufflers. These actions harm communities and waste resources to discourage the offenders. HB 212 will provide additional tools to effectively enforce certain motor vehicle noise requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

Fazlul Kabir
Mayor

cc: Maryland 21st District Delegation

HB 212- LOS City of Gaithersburg.pdf

Uploaded by: Jud Ashman

Position: FAV



January 23, 2024

Bill: Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gaithersburg writes to support Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization. If enacted, this legislation would authorize a local government to use noise abatement monitoring systems.

We believe this bill is a significant step towards mitigating the negative effects of excessive noise levels to those in our community. The use of noise abatement monitoring systems will enable local governments to better monitor and enforce noise regulations, ultimately promoting a peaceful living environment. Moreover, the establishment of certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a noise abatement monitoring system provides necessary safeguards to ensure that the law is enforced fairly and accurately. This will prevent false or incorrect citations from being issued and ensure that drivers have a fair opportunity to contest their citations, if necessary.

This bill is also crucial for the health and well-being of our residents, as excessive noise levels have been linked to stress, sleep disturbances, and even cardiovascular disease. The provisions in this bill will enable local governments to better control, and monitor, the sources of noise pollution, providing a safer and more comfortable living environment for all our residents.

Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB212.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

Delegate Palakovich Carr Testimony - HB 212 - Nois

Uploaded by: Julie Palakovich Carr

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 212 Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization

Noise from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems is a growing problem in communities across the state. Overly loud vehicles are a quality-of-life concern for community members, especially those adjacent to multi-lane highways where racing engines can be heard blocks away.

HB 212 would enable Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and municipalities in those counties to use noise abatement monitoring systems to automatically detect vehicles in violation of state motor vehicle noise requirements. By using noise cameras, counties and municipalities can address excessive noise concerns without increasing traffic stops by law enforcement.

This legislation passed the Senate in a different posture in 2023.

Noise Pollution: An Increasing Quality of Life Concern

Maryland and federal regulations both establish a maximum sound limit of 80 decibels for vehicles sold and operating on our state's roads.^{1,2} Under current law, it's illegal to modify a vehicle's exhaust system or to operate a vehicle that exceeds this threshold. These laws exist because excessive noise negatively affects the health of humans and animals, in addition to being a public nuisance.

Although state law currently allows for police to ticket excessively loud vehicles, enforcement is difficult. Most police officers aren't equipped with decibel meters and many police departments don't want to increase traffic stops.

New Technology for Automatic Enforcement

New technology is emerging to automatically detect excessively loud vehicles and to send the vehicle owner a citation. Noise cameras work similarly to speed cameras, with technology placed adjacent to a road that can measure the loudness of each vehicle that drives past. If a vehicle exceeds 80 decibels, the noise camera is triggered to take a picture of the license plate of the offending vehicle.

¹ COMAR Section 11.14.07.13

² 40 CFR § 205.52

The cameras are sophisticated enough to recognize the difference between different types of sound by monitoring the noise pattern. As such, these noise cameras can specifically look for noise caused by illegally modified exhaust pipes and mufflers.

The potential citation is reviewed by an employee of the local government for accuracy and compliance with the law before it is sent to the vehicle owner.

Automated Enforcement by Other Jurisdictions

Several states and cities have taken action to authorize and start using noise cameras. The states of New York and California enacted legislation to authorize pilot programs. New York City has been using noise cameras for more than 2 years and is rapidly expanding their program across its boroughs. Their program has been very successful in detecting cars with illegally modified exhaust systems and getting vehicles into compliance with the law. In its pilot phase, New York used just one camera and caught over 500 violators. They recently added 7 new cameras and have approved the installation of 25 more by 2025, with up to 100 cameras anticipated by 2028.

Knoxville, Tennessee started a pilot program in February 2022 and has since decided to continue the use of noise cameras permanently. Miami Beach, Florida installed noise cameras in December 2022. Albuquerque, New Mexico has approved a pilot. Chicago, Illinois and Washington, DC are considering the use of noise cameras. Worldwide, several jurisdictions currently use or will soon be deploying noise cameras, including in Paris, Taipei, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

What the Bill Does

This bill is modeled after Maryland's speed camera program and includes the same legislative safeguards:

- Enables local governments in Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties to use noise cameras to catch illegally loud vehicles.
- A local government would need to authorize the use of the noise cameras, after public notice and holding at least one public hearing.
- Before each noise camera could be installed, the local government would need to provide public notice about the proposed location of the camera and install a sign near the camera that indicates that noise abatement monitoring is happening in the area.
- An employee of the local government must review each citation.
- For the first offense, a warning must be issued.
 - For subsequent offenses, a citation is mailed for a civil penalty of up to \$70—the same penalty if a law enforcement officer issues the violation.
 - No points can be assessed.
- A vehicle owner who receives a citation can either pay it or contest it in court.
- Rental car companies are exempted, as they are under the speed camera law.
- The camera vendor's fee cannot be contingent on a per-ticket basis.

Sponsor Amendment HB 212.pdf

Uploaded by: Julie Palakovich Carr

Position: FAV



HB0212/863822/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

06 FEB 24
10:43:05

BY: Delegate Palakovich Carr
(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 212
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 5, in line 15, after “SUBTITLE” insert “BY AT LEAST 5 DECIBELS”.

HB 212 noise cameras bill testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Stewart

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

KATE STEWART
VICE PRESIDENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 6, 2024

HB 212 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization
Position: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, members of the E&T committee, I am writing in support of HB 212 to authorize Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties to take action to address excessive noise from modified vehicle exhaust systems.

The noise from these modified exhaust systems has been immensely disturbing to residents in numerous areas of my district, and detrimental to our community's quality of life. While modified exhaust systems are already illegal, it can be challenging and unsafe to pursue noisy vehicles traveling at high speeds, and the community demand for this type of enforcement often exceeds the county's current enforcement capacity.

Other jurisdictions such as New York, NY, Miami, FL, and London, England have implemented similar technologies to these systems, which have served as strong disincentives to use of modified exhaust and dangerous street racing. The CDC indicates that sustained loud noise may be linked to increased risk of heart disease and elevated blood pressure, as well as sleep disruption and hearing loss. There are limitations to local regulatory approaches for modified exhausts, particularly given residents may make the modifications themselves and not at an auto shop or professional mechanic, and may order parts online.

This legislation would authorize these three counties to examine costs, benefits, implementation challenges, and geographic placement of "noise cameras" or other noise monitoring systems just as counties already have rules governing placement of automated speed and red light enforcement cameras. There are similar appeals processes for citations issued through use of these systems as to those issued through automated speed and red light enforcement systems. Please support this vital legislation to enhance residents' quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Stewart".

Kate Stewart
Councilmember, District 4
Vice President, Montgomery County Council

20240206 Environment and Transportation Committee.

Uploaded by: Marina Dullnig

Position: FAV

Environment and Transportation Committee
HB0212 – Vehicle Noise Legislation

IN FAVOR

I live 4 blocks away from Rt.1 and 4 blocks from Greenbelt Road. With my doors and windows closed, I hear those cars with altered mufflers. Often, these guys (I am sure these are guys) stage races on Greenbelt Road between 10 P.M. and 2 A.M. This disturbs the neighborhood's peace and quiet.

On highways, vehicles with altered mufflers speed wherever they can to produce their sound effects. To maintain their high speed for the sake of their noise, they often choose to zigzag in between the lanes, which makes their driving dangerous.

Once I got seriously startled on the highway when a car next to me suddenly revved up.

Please consider banning altered mufflers throughout the State of Maryland.

Thank you!
Marina Dullnig
8400 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD 20740
240-606-0039

February 6, 2024

HB 212 - MoCo_Morningstar_FAV (GA 24).pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 212

DATE: February 8, 2024

SPONSOR: Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization

House Bill 212 would allow Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties to establish an automated noise abatement monitoring program to enforce noise limits on State and local roadways. Montgomery County supports this enabling legislation.

Similar to automated traffic enforcement of red light and speed limit violations, noise-monitoring cameras would be used to capture motorists operating vehicles that exceed outdoor noise level guidelines. A noise abatement monitoring system could be a mobile or fixed-vehicle sensor that would work in conjunction with a noise measuring device (such as a decibel reader) that produces two or more photographs, a videotape, or other recorded images of an offending vehicle. A citation would be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle who would be liable for the citation. The vehicle owner would receive a warning for the first offense, and a \$70 ticket for a second and subsequent offense. Violations would also require the owner to make any necessary alterations to the vehicle to avoid future citations. The citation could be challenged in District Court by the vehicle owner.

Montgomery County residents have been subjected to an increasing number of reckless car meet-ups and intersection take-overs on State and County roadways. Acts of aggressive driving by motorists who have deliberately modified their vehicles to increase engine performance and power have resulted in increased traffic safety risks on our roads and have harmed the health and comfort of our residents.

House Bill 212 recognizes that we need to think outside the box by allowing three counties to pursue promising automated noise-monitoring enforcement technology rather than relying on our police departments to enforce traffic laws and vehicle noise ordinances. Therefore, Montgomery County respectfully urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report on House Bill 212.

HB 212- LOS City of Gaithersburg.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Peters

Position: FAV



January 23, 2024

Bill: Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gaithersburg writes to support Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization. If enacted, this legislation would authorize a local government to use noise abatement monitoring systems.

We believe this bill is a significant step towards mitigating the negative effects of excessive noise levels to those in our community. The use of noise abatement monitoring systems will enable local governments to better monitor and enforce noise regulations, ultimately promoting a peaceful living environment. Moreover, the establishment of certain defenses to a charge of an alleged violation recorded by a noise abatement monitoring system provides necessary safeguards to ensure that the law is enforced fairly and accurately. This will prevent false or incorrect citations from being issued and ensure that drivers have a fair opportunity to contest their citations, if necessary.

This bill is also crucial for the health and well-being of our residents, as excessive noise levels have been linked to stress, sleep disturbances, and even cardiovascular disease. The provisions in this bill will enable local governments to better control, and monitor, the sources of noise pollution, providing a safer and more comfortable living environment for all our residents.

Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB212.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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MAYOR
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Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

Korman_HB0212_02062024.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Anderson

Position: FAV



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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February 6, 2024

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Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for House Bill 0212 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement
Monitoring Systems - Authorization**

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The College Park City Council voted unanimously during the meeting of January 23, 2024, to support HB 0212, which would authorize the use of noise abatement monitoring systems in Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. We appreciate the sponsors who have brought forward this legislation.

Our neighborhoods have suffered from disturbances due to vehicles with illegal modified mufflers. These actions harm communities and waste resources to discourage the offenders. HB 212 will provide additional tools to effectively enforce certain motor vehicle noise requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

Fazlul Kabir
Mayor

cc: Maryland 21st District Delegation

HB0212 Written Testimony - Todd Reitzel.pdf

Uploaded by: Todd Reitzel

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

I am a resident of College Park, and I support HB0212: Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization.

I have lived in Maryland for 30 years and, in the past several years, have noticed a growing number of loud vehicles on our neighborhood streets and local thoroughfares. This happens, unfortunately, at all hours of the day and night, and it has the effect of increasingly disturbing the peace and our quality of life.

At various community meetings with the police, I've heard my neighbors share how this unnecessary noise negatively affects their quality of life, and I agree with them. I often have meetings and conversations in my home disrupted by this loud vehicle noise. I sometimes cannot have conversations on my back patio due to loud vehicle noise on the street in front of my house. I've sometimes been awoken late at night by loud vehicle noise passing by.

In community meetings, I've also heard the police assure us there are laws forbidding the modified mufflers that make this noise and assure us that they are issuing citations. I am grateful for these laws and for this enforcement, but despite that, this unnecessary noise continues. Our hard-working police cannot be everywhere, and thankfully there is the technology of noise-abatement monitoring systems that could help our police enforce the law.

We need communities that allow us and our children to get adequate sleep in order to do well the next day at work or at school. We need communities in which we can live without frequent unnecessary loud noise from modified automotive systems. We need our hard-working police officers to be able to focus their efforts on other, more dangerous activities such as crimes.

I encourage you to support HB0212 to allow municipalities such as mine to post noise-abatement monitoring systems to identify these vehicles that are disturbing the peace in our community.

Thank you.

Todd Reitzel
9743 Narragansett Parkway
College Park, Maryland 20740

MML-HB 212 - FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FWA



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.



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.
Bill Jorch
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Director, Public Policy & Research
Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

HB212_NoiseAbatement_KEaton-UnFavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Eaton

Position: UNF



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road & Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

To: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chairman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Director, Executive Director, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Date: February 5, 2024

Re: **HB 212** - Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization

Position: **UNFAVORABLE: DOES NOT SUPPORT**

I am a motorcyclist, backyard car enthusiast (shade tree mechanic), a coastal / civil engineer, a farmer, a registered voter, and a member of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., the largest motorcyclist rights organization in the state of Maryland. I personally own multiple vehicles of all types. At the farm, I have motorcycles (historic and late model), trucks, cars, tractors, a small bus, trailers, etc. ABATE represents the approximately 121,000 on road motorcycles that are registered in Maryland. We have chapters throughout the state and our members include a diverse cross-section of motorcycle riders in Maryland. We **DO NOT SUPPORT HB212.**

Legislation very similar to this was passed in New York state. It was started as a “Pilot Program”. Even though there were numerous problems with configuration of the equipment, court cases contesting the conditions in which the testing was performed, and the inability to distinguish between two vehicles running side by side (Example: a loud truck and a motorcycle, which one set off the camera?), the state converted this pilot program into law. There are numerous challenges to these camera violations, clogging the judicial system due to all of the problems. Our friends in ABATE of New York and ABATE of Long Island, as well as the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, and the American Motorcyclist Association, have been keeping us apprised of the on-going situation.

There are already laws on the books that cover excessive noise (MD Trans Article 21 sec 1117 para. d), driving a vehicle in a race or speed contest (MD Trans Article 21 sec 1116 para. a) in addition to cut-off exhausts, using device on motor vehicle (exhaust, tail pipe) extension causing excessive noise (MD Trans. Code 22 sec. 402, par. b), speeding, reckless driving, and negligent driving traffic violations. What we have heard from many jurisdictions is the real problem is vehicles racing on the public streets and also creating a lot of noise while doing so. My question is, if you cannot seem to catch them racing and give them a ticket for that, why are we considering an automated system that has a few issues, and issues a civil violation, which does nothing to require that the vehicle go through inspection or meet any specific requirement. This violation has no points, will not show up on a driving record as a moving violation and may not be considered in the provision of motor vehicle insurance. At the end of the day, this is a first offense warning, and a second offense of up to \$70. This may end up doing nothing about street racing or excessive noise problems. The back story of this bill may be more of an enforcement issue than an issue that requires additional legislation. Existing laws and regulations are already in place that address noise, street racing, etc.

Also, decibel levels in a controlled environment are quite different than on a city streetscape. Sound waves reflect, bounce, get absorbed, etc., depending upon the surroundings. Accuracy of recording these levels in an uncontrolled environment seems to be an unanswered question. To go even deeper, decibels are on a logarithmic scale instead of linear. A slight issue with the recording device or the environment may cause the levels to be misrepresented. This bill only requires that the metering device be calibrated once per year.

71 Franklin Street | PO Box 1733 | Annapolis, MD 21404

(410) 263-9185 | www.abateofmd.org

All of the environmental changes due to wind, rain, cold, heat, etc., can have a detrimental effect on these devices if not calibrated more often.

As an example, many new cars, right from the showroom floor have elevated decibel outputs. A 2024 Corvette Z06 can be 110 dB. A Dodge Charger: 126 dB. Most aftermarket car stereos have decibels ratings over 100 dB, large trucks and buses peak at around 90 dB. Lawn mowers run at approximately 95 dB. The decibel level at which violations would be issued may end up including a lot of vehicles, which does not seem to be the intent of this bill. Typically these noise cameras are set at issuing violations at 85 dB, or even lower.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. **DOES NOT SUPPORT HB 212** - Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization. We urge the committee to consider an **UnFavorable** vote.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth B. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being the most prominent.

Kenneth B. Eaton, Executive Director
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

HB0212.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Duffy

Position: UNF

HB0212 is yet another bad bill and MORE government overreach. Say NO to HB0212.
Americans don't want government overseeing every SINGLE little thing we do. BAD.

HB0212 - SHA - Noise Abatement Systems_LOI_FINAL.p

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 212 – Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information for the Committee's consideration on House Bill 212.

House Bill 212 authorizes the use of noise abatement monitoring systems in Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County to enforce violations of State law governing maximum sound limits of motor vehicles. The use of noise abatement monitoring systems must be authorized by local law.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) understands the implementation and operation of these noise abatement monitoring system programs to be matters of local concern. In those instances where equipment would be mounted to, or utilize SHA infrastructure or right-of-way, SHA will maintain approval or permitting processes in a similar manner to those for other types of automated enforcement systems. As a part of this process, SHA would seek to recover costs from sponsor agencies for SHA's engineering reviews and permit approvals.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 212.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Mickler
Division Chief, Legislative Services
State Highway Administration
410-545-5629

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090