



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

TESTIMONY

January 31, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: _____ SB 155 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 155 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 SB 155 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 Senate Bill 155 with a favorable report with this important amendment.

MML Amendment (page 4 line 23):

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

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