

March 20, 2025

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

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 121 – Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Inspection and Extension***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 121 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly created the pilot program for noise abatement monitoring systems to be installed in Montgomery and Prince Georges' counties, enabling the citation of vehicles found to violate noise limits via measured recordings. SB 121 would extend the pilot program for noise abatement monitoring systems by two years. Additionally, the bill requires custodians of recorded images produced by a noise abatement monitoring system to deny inspection of the images under the Maryland Public Information Act, subject to certain exceptions.

Currently, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) will flag a vehicle in Maryland that has an unpaid ticket assessed against the record when a jurisdiction indicates to do so. The MVA will charge a \$30 administrative fee for each flag to recover its costs incurred in doing so and cannot lift a flag until a jurisdiction indicates the unpaid citation has been resolved or is being adjudicated. The MVA established internal coding that allows it to flag a vehicle for an unpaid citation issued by the pilot noise abatement monitoring systems, but as the devices have still not been installed in either county, no flags have been issued against a vehicle at this time.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 121.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090