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**By: Delegate Bozman**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Operation of Sound Amplification System - Noise Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the driver of a motor vehicle from operating, or  
4 permitting the operation of, a sound amplification system in a certain manner while  
5 the vehicle is on a highway; prohibiting the owner, operator, or other person  
6 entrusted with a motor vehicle by the owner or operator, from operating, or  
7 permitting the operation of, a sound amplification system in a certain manner while  
8 the vehicle is parked; specifying certain exceptions to the prohibition; defining a  
9 certain term; and generally relating to a prohibition on the operation of a sound  
10 amplification system from a motor vehicle in a certain manner.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Transportation  
13 Section 21-1121  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article - Transportation  
18 Section 27-101(a) and (b)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Transportation**

24 21-1121.

25 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "SOUND AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM" MEANS A COMPACT  
26 DISC PLAYER, A RADIO, A TAPE PLAYER, OR A SIMILAR DEVICE.

27 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

28 (1) AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES;

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1 (2) VEHICLES OPERATED BY COMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRIC, GAS, OR  
2 WATER UTILITIES;

3 (3) A SOUND AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM OPERATED TO REQUEST  
4 ASSISTANCE OR TO WARN OF A HAZARDOUS SITUATION; OR

5 (4) UNLESS OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY LOCAL LAW, A SOUND  
6 AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM USED FOR ADVERTISING, PARADES, OR FOR POLITICAL OR  
7 OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS.

8 (C) WHEN A MOTOR VEHICLE IS BEING OPERATED ON A HIGHWAY, THE  
9 DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE MAY NOT OPERATE, OR PERMIT THE OPERATION OF, A  
10 SOUND AMPLIFICATION SYSTEM FROM THE VEHICLE THAT PRODUCES A NOISE  
11 LEVEL THAT EXCEEDS 75 DBA IN ANY AREA THAT IS 50 FEET OR MORE OUTSIDE THE  
12 VEHICLE.

13 (D) WHEN A MOTOR VEHICLE IS PARKED, THE OWNER, OPERATOR, OR  
14 OTHER PERSON ENTRUSTED WITH THE VEHICLE BY THE OWNER OR OPERATOR,  
15 MAY NOT OPERATE OR PERMIT THE OPERATION OF A SOUND AMPLIFICATION  
16 SYSTEM FROM THE VEHICLE THAT PRODUCES A NOISE LEVEL THAT EXCEEDS 70  
17 DBA IN ANY AREA THAT IS 50 FEET OR MORE OUTSIDE THE VEHICLE.

18 27-101.

19 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the  
20 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation is declared to be a felony by the Maryland  
21 Vehicle Law or by any other law of this State.

22 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a  
23 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is  
24 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 1996.