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By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2000

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Queen Anne's County - Shooting Ranges - Sound Level Limits and Noise**  
3 **Control Regulations**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that certain regulations of the Department of the  
5 Environment relating to sound level limits and noise control may not prohibit  
6 trapshooting or other target shooting on a range or other property in Queen  
7 Anne's County as approved by the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's  
8 County; clarifying language; and generally relating to the applicability of  
9 certain sound level and noise control regulations to trapshooting or other target  
10 shooting on certain property in Queen Anne's County under certain  
11 circumstances.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Environment  
14 Section 3-401  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Environment**

20 3-401.

21 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, the Department shall adopt  
22 environmental noise standards, sound level limits, and noise control rules and  
23 regulations as necessary to protect the public health, the general welfare, and  
24 property.

25 (b) In adopting environmental noise standards, the Department shall  
26 consider:

27 (1) Information published by the Administrator of the United States  
28 Environmental Protection Agency on the levels of environmental noise that must be

1 attained and maintained in defined areas under various conditions to protect public  
2 health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety; and

3 (2) Scientific information about the volume, frequency, duration, and  
4 other characteristics of noise that may harm public health, safety, or general welfare,  
5 including:

6 (i) Temporary or permanent hearing loss;

7 (ii) Interference with sleep, speech communication, work, or other  
8 human activities;

9 (iii) Adverse physiological responses;

10 (iv) Psychological distress;

11 (v) Harm to animal life;

12 (vi) Devaluation of or damage to property; and

13 (vii) Unreasonable interference with the enjoyment of life or  
14 property.

15 (c) (1) In adopting sound level limits and noise control rules and  
16 regulations, the Department shall consider, among other things:

17 (i) The residential, commercial, or industrial nature of the area  
18 affected;

19 (ii) Zoning;

20 (iii) The nature and source of various kinds of noise;

21 (iv) The degree of noise reduction that may be attained and  
22 maintained using the best available technology;

23 (v) Accepted scientific and professional methods for measurement  
24 of sound levels; and

25 (vi) The cost of compliance with the sound level limits.

26 (2) The sound level limits adopted under this subsection shall be  
27 consistent with the environmental noise standards adopted by the Department.

28 (3) The sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations  
29 adopted under this subsection may not prohibit trapshooting or other target shooting  
30 on any range or other property in:

31 (I) Frederick County [that] AS APPROVED BY the Frederick  
32 County Department of Planning and Zoning [has approved] as a place for those  
33 sporting events; AND

1 (II) QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY AS APPROVED BY THE COUNTY  
 2 COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY AS A PLACE FOR THOSE SPORTING  
 3 EVENTS.

4 (4) The sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations  
 5 adopted under this subsection shall be as follows for residential heat pumps and air  
 6 conditioning units:

7 (i) Residential heat pumps 75dba.

8 (ii) Residential air conditioning units 70dba.

9 (5) (i) The sound level limits and noise control rules and regulations  
 10 adopted under this subsection may not prohibit trapshooting, skeetshooting, or other  
 11 target shooting between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. on any range or other  
 12 property of a shooting sports club that is chartered and in operation as of July 1, 1983.  
 13 However, this prohibition does not apply if the sports shooting club moves to a parcel  
 14 of land that is not contiguous to the location of the club on July 1, 1983.

15 (ii) This paragraph does not apply in Allegany, Anne Arundel,  
 16 Baltimore City, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, St. Mary's, and  
 17 Washington Counties.

18 (d) (1) This section does not authorize the Department to adopt  
 19 environmental noise standards, sound level limits, or noise control rules and  
 20 regulations that apply to noise from:

21 (i) Construction or repair work on public property; or

22 (ii) Fire or rescue station alerting devices.

23 (2) Noise control rules and regulations that apply to Department of  
 24 Transportation facilities shall be adopted jointly by the Department of Transportation  
 25 and the Department of the Environment.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 27 June 1, 2000.