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By: **Delegates Leopold and V. Clagett**  
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2006  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 1, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of the Environment - Sound Level Meters - Use by**  
3 **Counties**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to maintain at  
5 least a certain number of sound level meters and to maintain calibration, at the  
6 Department's own cost, of those sound level meters; requiring the Department to  
7 make available to certain counties, at the request of a county, a sound level  
8 meter the Department maintains; authorizing the Department to adopt certain  
9 regulations; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the use of sound  
10 level meters maintained by the Department of the Environment by certain  
11 counties.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Environment  
14 Section 3-403  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2005 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 3-403.

21 (a) The Department shall enforce the sound level limits and noise control  
22 rules and regulations adopted under this title.

1 (b) To the maximum extent possible, the Department shall use the facilities  
2 and services of appropriate agencies of political subdivisions in its enforcement under  
3 this section.

4 (c) The Department may assist the noise control efforts of any appropriate  
5 agency of any political subdivision by giving that agency technical assistance in the  
6 form of personnel or equipment.

7 (d) Each sound level limit shall be applied at the boundary of:

8 (1) A property; or

9 (2) A land use category, as determined by the Department.

10 (E) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "QUALIFIED COUNTY" MEANS ANY COUNTY  
11 THAT HAS ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE STANDARDS, SOUND LEVEL LIMITS, OR  
12 NOISE CONTROL LAWS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 3-105 OF THIS TITLE.

13 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN:

14 (I) AT LEAST TWO SOUND LEVEL METERS; AND

15 (II) CALIBRATION, AT ITS OWN COST, OF EACH OF THE SOUND  
16 LEVEL METERS IT MAINTAINS.

17 (3) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCEMENT BY A QUALIFIED COUNTY OF  
18 ITS ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE STANDARDS, SOUND LEVEL LIMITS, OR NOISE CONTROL  
19 LAWS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO A QUALIFIED COUNTY, ON THE  
20 REQUEST OF THE COUNTY, A SOUND LEVEL METER THAT THE DEPARTMENT  
21 MAINTAINS.

22 (4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR  
23 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND QUALIFIED COUNTIES FOR THE USE  
24 OF SOUND LEVEL METERS MAINTAINED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
26 effect October 1, 2006.