

CHAPTER 249

(Senate Bill 370)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force – ~~Extension and~~ Membership Reconstitution

FOR the purpose of ~~extending the duration of~~ reconstituting the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force; ~~altering the membership of the Task Force; altering the date on which the final findings and recommendations of the Task Force are due; requiring the Task Force to report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor; making this Act an emergency measure; making a certain technical correction~~ providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; stating the intent of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 384 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008
Section 1 and 2~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 385 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008
Section 1 and 2~~

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

~~Chapter 384 of the Acts of 2008~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

- (a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.
- ~~(b) The Task Force consists of:~~
- (b) The Task Force consists of:

~~(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;~~

~~(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND~~

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

~~(3)~~ (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation:

~~[(1)]~~ ~~(I)~~ (i) one representative from the Department of Transportation;

~~[(2)]~~ ~~(II)~~ (ii) one representative from the Department of the Environment;

~~[(3)]~~ ~~(III)~~ (iii) two or three individuals who:

~~[(i)]~~ ~~1.~~ 1. represent the organized blind community in this State;

~~[(ii)]~~ ~~2.~~ 2. are legally blind; and

~~[(iii)]~~ ~~3.~~ 3. have experience or expertise in training blind people to travel safely and independently;

~~[(4)]~~ ~~(IV)~~ (iv) two or three individuals representing pedestrian organizations in this State; and

~~[(5)]~~ ~~(V)~~ (v) one representative of an organization representing the interests of automobile manufacturers.

(c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its membership.

(d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Task Force from the Department of Transportation.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

- (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

- (1) study:
 - (i) the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety; and
 - (ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind pedestrians;
- (2) review all available research regarding the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety;
- (3) consult with:
 - (i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind, other pedestrians, and cyclists; and
 - (ii) advocates for the safety of children;
- (4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be conducted;
- (5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:
 - (i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other relevant fields; and
 - (ii) interested members of the public; and
- (6) make recommendations concerning:
 - (i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and ~~licensed~~ **REGISTERED** registered in the State; and
 - (ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind pedestrians.

(g) The Task Force is not required to specify the method or technology through which automobile manufacturers must implement the recommended sound standard.

(h) On or before December 31, ~~[2008]~~ **2010**, the Task Force shall report its ~~FINAL~~ final findings and recommendations to the ~~[General Assembly]~~ **GOVERNOR AND Governor** and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, ~~THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY~~, the General Assembly.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 YEARS AND 7 months and, at the end of December 31, [2008] 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

~~Chapter 385 of the Acts of 2008~~

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:~~

~~(a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.~~

~~(b) The Task Force consists of:~~

~~(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;~~

~~(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND~~

~~(3) the following members, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation:~~

~~[(1)] (I) one representative from the Department of Transportation;~~

~~[(2)] (II) one representative from the Department of the Environment;~~

~~[(3)] (III) two or three individuals who:~~

~~[(i)] 1. represent the organized blind community in this State;~~

~~[(ii)] 2. are legally blind; and~~

~~[(iii)] 3. have experience or expertise in training blind people to travel safely and independently;~~

~~[(4)] (IV) two or three individuals representing pedestrian organizations in this State; and~~

~~[(5)] (V) one representative of an organization representing the interests of automobile manufacturers.~~

~~(e) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its membership.~~

~~(d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Task Force from the Department of Transportation.~~

~~(e) A member of the Task Force:~~

~~(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but~~

~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.~~

~~(f) The Task Force shall:~~

~~(1) study:~~

~~(i) the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety; and~~

~~(ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind pedestrians;~~

~~(2) review all available research regarding the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety;~~

~~(3) consult with:~~

~~(i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind, other pedestrians, and cyclists; and~~

~~(ii) advocates for the safety of children;~~

~~(4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be conducted;~~

~~(5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:~~

~~(i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other relevant fields; and~~

~~(ii) interested members of the public; and~~

~~(6) make recommendations concerning:~~

~~(i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and [licensed] REGISTERED in the State; and~~

~~(ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind pedestrians.~~

~~(g) The Task Force is not required to specify the method or technology through which automobile manufacturers must implement the recommended sound standard.~~

~~(h) On or before December 31, [2008] 2010, the Task Force shall report its FINAL findings and recommendations to the [General Assembly] GOVERNOR AND, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 YEARS AND 7 months and, at the end of December 31, [2008] 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor appoint to the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force those individuals who formerly were appointed to the predecessor Task Force established under Chapter 384 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008 and who were serving on the Task Force as of December 31, 2009.

SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through December 31, 2010, and, at the end of December 31, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.