

SENATE BILL 752

R1

6lr2747

By: **Senators Klausmeier, Madaleno, and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Reassigned: Finance, February 12, 2016

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration – Policy Concerning Sound Barriers Along**
3 **Highways**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration, in collaboration with
5 county governing bodies, to develop and adopt by regulation a policy concerning
6 sound barriers along highways in the State; requiring the Administration to review
7 and evaluate the sound barrier policy for effectiveness and continued viability at
8 certain intervals; requiring the Administration to conduct a certain study concerning
9 sound barriers along highways in the State and report its findings to the Governor
10 and the General Assembly; defining a term; and generally relating to sound barriers
11 along highways in the State.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 8–657

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 **8–657.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "SOUND BARRIER" MEANS A NATURAL OR AN
2 ARTIFICIAL BARRIER DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE TRANSFER OF SOUND FROM
3 TRAFFIC ALONG A HIGHWAY TO ADJACENT AREAS.

4 (B) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL
5 GOVERNING BODIES OF THE COUNTIES, SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT BY
6 REGULATION A POLICY CONCERNING SOUND BARRIERS ALONG HIGHWAYS IN THE
7 STATE.

8 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND EVERY 3 YEARS
9 THEREAFTER, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL REVIEW AND EVALUATE THE POLICY
10 ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR EFFECTIVENESS AND
11 CONTINUED VIABILITY.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

13 (a) The State Highway Administration shall conduct a study to:

14 (1) evaluate the effectiveness of the Administration's policy concerning
15 sound barriers under the regulations adopted under § 8-657 of the Transportation Article
16 as enacted by the Act, when applied to sound barriers that were installed along highways
17 in the State prior to the adoption of the regulations;

18 (2) determine the portion of the Administration's annual budget that is
19 spent on sound barriers along highways in the State; and

20 (3) evaluate any differences among the counties in the contracts awarded
21 for the construction of sound barriers along highways in the State and determine the costs
22 and benefits of any differences that are noted.

23 (b) On or before December 1, 2017, the Administration shall report the findings
24 of the study to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
25 General Assembly.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2016.