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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**HB 1333 – MOTOR VEHICLES – MODIFIED VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEM -
PENALITIES**

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR BARVE, MR. VICE CHAIR AND COLLEAGUES. I AM ASKING YOUR FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB 1333. THIS BILL REPEALS AND AMENDS A CURRENT STATUTE THAT PROHIBITS THE MODIFICATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEMS OR OTHER NOISE ABATEMENT DEVICES THAT INCREASE THE NOISE ABOVE THE MANUFACTURED LEVEL. IN PARTICULAR, HB 1333 PENALIZES INDIVIDUALS DRIVING SUCH A VEHICLE ON ANY HIGHWAY AND PROVIDES AN EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN REGISTERED HISTORIC MOTOR VEHICLES.

NOISE POLLUTION HAS BECOME AN AREA OF GREATER CONCERN IN RECENT YEARS BECAUSE OF ITS HAZARDOUS EFFECT ON OUR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE. NOISE PRODUCED BY VEHICLE TRAFFIC IS ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES OF NOISE POLLUTION AND HAS RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON HIGHWAYS. ALTHOUGH HB1333 IS NOT INTENDED TO CREATE A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF NOISE POLLUTION IN THE STATE, WE BELIEVE THIS IS A STEP TOWARD REDUCING SOME OF ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH.

I RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR CONSTITUENTS WHO LIVES WITH HIS FAMILY ON FLORAL DRIVE IN ADELPHI. FLORAL DRIVE IS IN A LOVELY, WELL-ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY OFF RIGGS ROAD WHERE MANY OF THE NEIGHBORS HAVE OWNED THEIR HOMES FOR DECADES. RIGGS ROAD IS A COUNTY ROAD OFF NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE AND A CUT THROUGH TO ROUTE 495.

HE STATED:

“I HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AWAKE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BY THESE UNREASONABLY LOUD CARS RIPPING UP AND DOWN FLORAL DRIVE.... IN ADDITION TO MY LOSS OF SLEEP, THE PETS MANY OF US HAVE ARE ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS BLARING LOUD NOISE AND IN SOME CASES CAN REQUIRE HOURS TO REGAIN THEIR NORMAL BEHAVIOR.

I HAVE COMPLAINED AND ASKED FOR HELP HERE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AGAINST THESE LOUD SPEEDERS WITH NO RELIEF FOR FAR TOO LONG. IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THERE BE SUBSTANTIAL PENALTIES ASSESSED AGAINST THESE INCONSIDERATE DRIVERS AND THAT THEY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO MEET BOTH STATE AND LOCAL NOISE ABATEMENT STANDARDS.”

CURRENTLY, THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION SECTION 22-609 PROHIBITS MODIFYING MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEMS AND DRIVING VEHICLES THAT HAVE BEEN SO MODIFIED. UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO PENALTIES ATTACHED TO VIOLATING THIS STATUTE, ENFORCEMENT IS DIFFICULT FORCING CONSTITUENTS LIKE MINE TO CONTINUE TO SUFFER. BY AUTHORIZING A POLICE OFFICER TO ISSUE A “SAFETY EQUIPMENT REPAIR ORDER” AND FINE OF UP TO \$400 TO THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE THAT VIOLATES THIS LAW,

WE WILL BE TAKING A SMALL STEP TOWARD REDUCING NOISE POLLUTION IN MARYLAND. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE WILL HAVE TAKEN A MAJOR STEP TOWARD REDUCING THE HEALTH HAZARDS CONSTITUENTS EXPERIENCE WHEN AWAKENED BY THE LOUD NOISE OF CARS ROARING THROUGH THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AT NIGHT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I URGE A FAVORABLE REPORT!

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