

Delegate Kumar P. Barve  
Chairman of the House Environmental Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

To whom it may concern,

Over the years the number of overly modified vehicles operating on the roadways of the state have increased. With the ease of accessing parts through online retailers and directions on how to modify the vehicles being easily accessible through online forms and Youtube, more vehicle owners are installing illegal modifications on their vehicles.

Many modifications made to vehicles are purely cosmetic and cause no danger or disturbances to other drivers on the roadway and the surrounding communities. Modification of the exhaust system is not one of those modifications. Vehicle manufactures undergo extensive testing and certification by regulatory bodies to ensure the exhaust system on vehicles operate in a way that reduces the emission of damaging greenhouse gasses. The testing also requires that the sound levels of the exhaust system does not rise above a generally acceptable level during normal operation. With modified exhaust that cause excessive noise, drivers will be unable to hear necessary sounds around them such as emergency vehicles responding to calls or other drivers honking their horn to warn of danger. The loud sound also distracts drivers and pedestrians potentially causing them to become inattentive to their surroundings. Failure to have full attention when on and around roadways may cause a danger for all citizens in the area.

A progressive increase in the penalty, as proposed in HB1333, for the violation of Transportation Article 22-609 will be a better deterrent to violators of the law and demonstrate that the State of Maryland will not allow unsafe vehicle to operate on the roadways. I encourage a favorable vote for HB1333.

Sincerely,

Jeramie Jordan