

SB 229 - FAV - MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 30, 2023

Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill: SB 229 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization, Use, and Penalties

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 229, which will significantly aid municipalities in certain parts of the State curb the rising problem of vehicles creating excessive noise.

Currently, municipal police officers are permitted to stop a vehicle that emits a noise in excess of the noise emitted by the vehicle as originally manufactured, but they must do so based on their training and experience. Allowing municipalities to install noise abatement monitoring systems, after a transparent public process, accomplishes two key points:

- Reduces the instances that a police officer needs to make a traffic stop in order to issue a citation for a noise violation.
- More accurately assesses citations, as the noise abatement monitoring systems are precisely calibrated to a certain decibel level before recording an image of the vehicle.

The new authority provided in SB 229 should significantly assist municipalities deal with the problem of excessively noisy vehicles operating on our roadways. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 229 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SB0229 - House_FAV_City of Rockville_Veh. Laws - N

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 229 – Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems –
Authorization, Use, and Penalties
SUPPORT

The Mayor and Council of Rockville thank Chair Barve and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to share the City’s comments on SB 229. We are thankful to Senator Beidle for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support SB 229 – authorizing local governments to install noise monitoring systems on roadways. Since the beginning of the pandemic, excessive noise from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems has plagued our cities and towns – frightening those on sidewalks, in nearby cars, and even those just simply in the privacy of their own homes.

We strongly support the provisions of SB 229 for the following reasons:

- This legislation would help address the serious concerns of our residents regarding excessive noise disruptions.
- SB 229 would broadly expand the capability of the City Police to address this public nuisance as there aren’t enough police patrols in the City and Montgomery County to respond to noise violations through traffic enforcement.
- We saw a dramatic and positive change in driver behavior when speed and red-light cameras were installed in Rockville – and SB 229 has the potential to have a similar impact by providing an incentive for drivers to comply with laws governing noise violations.

Automated noise monitoring systems are a promising new tool that could dramatically reduce noise pollution, excessive noise violations, and restore the peace and quiet for those enjoying a walk, a bike ride, or working from home. For these reasons – we urge the Committee to provide SB 229 with a favorable report. Thank you.

SB229 Noise Camera House.pdf

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Finance Committee

Chair, Executive Nominations Committee

Spending Affordability Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management of
Public Funds

Chair, Anne Arundel County
Senate Delegation



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2023

SB 229
Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems
Authorization, Use, and Penalties

Good Afternoon Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of Environment and Transportation Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 229, Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties. Loud vehicles are a quality of life issue for many of our communities, especially those located near state highways. As we all know, it's illegal in Maryland to modify your car's muffler, to operate a vehicle with an illegally modified muffler, or to operate a vehicle that exceeds 80 decibels. Many police departments don't want to pull over drivers because officers aren't equipped with decibel meters, this makes enforcement difficult.

How can we resolve this? New technology is emerging to detect loud vehicles and to automatically send the owner of the vehicle a citation. It's like a speed camera, but for noise. Multiple companies are developing this technology, including a company based in here in Maryland. Two states (CA and NY) have passed legislation to allow pilot programs of the technology. New York City recently launched a pilot program and has issued tickets. Other jurisdictions have done pilots in recent years.

The Senate amended this bill to be a pilot program in three County's: Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's County. This legislation would enable the local governments to use noise cameras to detect and issue warnings to vehicles that exceed Maryland's noise thresholds. The legislation is based on our speed camera program and has the similar safeguards built in. A local government would need to authorize the use of the sound cameras.

Rental car companies are exempt from the provisions.

SB229 prohibits the camera vendor's fee being contingent on a per-warning basis.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB229.

Anne Arundel County Delegation Support Letter

Uploaded by: Roger Massey

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION

March 24, 2023

Chairman Kumar Barve

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Room 251 House Office Building

Annapolis, Md. 21401

RE: SB229 – Vehicle Laws- Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems- Authorization, Use, and Penalties

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Anne Arundel County House Delegation voted on the above bill on March 24, 2023. The Delegation vote was 12-2 in **favor** of the bill with two members absent. A copy of the vote tally is attached. Please consider a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Heather Bagnall

Chair

SB0229-ET_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 229

Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: March 30, 2023

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 229. This bill would allow counties to install noise abatement monitoring systems on county roadways. This is enabling legislation that authorizes counties to apply an additional tool in maintaining motor vehicle compliance and safety in neighborhoods and communities.

In addition to the enhanced security and order these programs help local governments maintain, they also help to support other public safety measures that keep these communities thriving. With an automated option for enforcing motor vehicle laws and violations, there is great potential to divert costs associated with law enforcement personnel who would typically be tasked with motor vehicle monitoring. These savings can be reinvested in other areas, while maintaining compliance and calming neighborhoods via the automated monitoring system.

Counties welcome this additional means to provide the accommodations necessary to maintain safe streets for all and doing so in a way that is sensitive to the constant demands on taxpayer dollars and county budgets. For these reason, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 229.