



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 2, 2023

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 1130, *Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties*
Support

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1130, *Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization, Use, and Penalties*.

House Bill 1130 would enable a local government to establish an automated noise abatement program to enforce noise limits on State and local roadways. Similar to automated traffic enforcement of red light and speed limit violations, noise-monitoring cameras would be used to capture motorists operating vehicles that exceed outdoor noise level guidelines. A noise abatement monitoring system could be a mobile or fixed-vehicle sensor that would work in conjunction with a noise measuring device (such as a decibel reader) that produces two or more photographs, a videotape, or other recorded images of an offending vehicle. A citation would be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle who would be liable for the citation. The vehicle owner would receive a warning for the first offense, and a \$70 ticket for a second and subsequent offense. Violations would also require the owner to make any necessary alterations to the vehicle to avoid future citations. The citation could be challenged in District Court by the vehicle owner.

Local law enforcement agencies have continued to be challenged by increasing numbers of complaints about street racing events on State and County roadways. Acts of aggressive driving by motorists who have deliberately modified their vehicles to increase engine performance and power have resulted in increased traffic safety risks on our roads and have harmed the health and comfort of our residents. House Bill 1130 recognizes that there's a need to think outside the box by allowing local governments to pursue promising automated noise-monitoring enforcement technology rather than relying on enforcement of traffic laws and vehicle noise ordinances by armed police officers. I would urge that the Committee adopt a favorable report on House Bill 1130.