



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.

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