



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 966

DATE: March 2, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegate Alston

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

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POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Motor Vehicles – Modified Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices – Testing and Penalties

House Bill 966 authorizes a police officer to issue a citation and a safety equipment repair order (SERO) to a motorist who is observed operating a vehicle with an unlawful modified exhaust system or noise abatement device. The first violation would be fine of \$250 (with a SERO), and a second or subsequent violation would result in the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) suspending the vehicle's registration. Registration reinstatement would require evidence to MVA's Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program that the vehicle's exhaust sound level complies with the MVA's maximum sound level limits. Montgomery County Department of Police supports this bill.

Vehicle exhaust noise complaints and growing numbers of street racing events and exhibition driving on State and County roads have continued to challenge local law enforcement agencies. These occurrences pose a traffic safety risk and affect residents' quality of life. This bill will help to address the problem by penalizing individuals for deliberating disrupting the peace in otherwise enjoyable communities.

The Montgomery County Department of Police supports House Bill 966 and urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report.