



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 304

**Motor Vehicles-Noise Limit and Modification of
Exhaust Systems and Noise Abatement Devices**

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 304 establishes the Sound Measuring Equipment Grant Program in the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of vehicle sound measuring equipment. Grants can be used to purchase hardware or software equipment to measure the sound level of a motor vehicle in operation. The bill imposes a mandate of \$2 million each year starting in Fiscal Year 2025 and requires the Administrator, after a public hearing and endorsement of the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Environment, to establish a maximum sound level limit of 95 decibels for the operation of motor vehicles or a combination of vehicles. Additionally, it prohibits a person from driving on any highway with a modified exhaust system or noise abatement device and if convicted it increases the fines for the violation.

Current law only carries a \$70.00 fine for unlawfully modifying an exhaust system or noise abatement device on a vehicle. Under the current legislation, if convicted the fines will increase as follows: \$200 for 1st offense; \$300 for 2nd offense, and \$400 for 3rd and subsequent offenses but exempts historical motor vehicles, a historic truck, tractor, or a motor home registered, and street repair order.

Prince George's County Council supports HB 304 because it will help local government agencies purchase the proper vehicle sound measuring equipment to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe from the exceedingly loud noise that modified exhaust systems and noise abatement devices make and it will set the sound level limit of 95 decibels. In the last few years, Prince George's County has experienced an increase in vehicles that have modified their exhaust systems or noise abatement devices which have caused concerns about the quality of life for residents and have created a major disturbance in our county. For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB 304 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Ramirez Group, LLC on behalf of the Prince George's County Council.