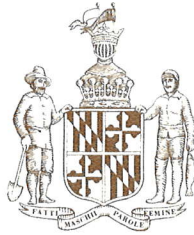


PAMELA G. BEIDLE  
Legislative District 32  
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Vice Chair  
Executive Nominations Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 202  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593  
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2023

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

Good Afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of Judicial Proceedings,

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.

This legislation would enable local governments to use noise cameras to detect and ticket vehicles that exceed Maryland's noise thresholds. The legislation is based on our speed camera program and has the same safeguards built in. A local government would need to authorize the use of the sound cameras:

- Provide public notice and hold at least one public hearing.
- Provide public notice about the proposed location of the camera and install a sign near the camera that indicates that noise abatement monitoring is happening in the area.
- For the first offense, a warning must be issued, for subsequent offenses, a citation is mailed for a civil penalty of up to \$70.
- An employee of the local government must review each citation.

Anyone receiving a citation can either pay it or contest it in court. Rental car companies are exempt from the provisions.

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

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB229.