



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

---

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

---

**HB 212**

**DATE: February 8, 2024**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al.**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

---

### **Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems – Authorization**

House Bill 212 would allow Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties to establish an automated noise abatement monitoring program to enforce noise limits on State and local roadways. Montgomery County supports this enabling legislation.

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.

Montgomery County residents have been subjected to an increasing number of reckless car meet-ups and intersection take-overs 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 212 recognizes that we need to think outside the box by allowing three counties to pursue promising automated noise-monitoring enforcement technology rather than relying on our police departments to enforce traffic laws and vehicle noise ordinances. Therefore, Montgomery County respectfully urges that the Committee adopt a favorable report on House Bill 212.