

# **Delegate Palakovich Carr Testimony - HB 18 - Noise**

Uploaded by: Julie Palakovich Carr

Position: FAV

JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR  
*Legislative District 17*  
Montgomery County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

Chair, Early Childhood Subcommittee

Chair, Montgomery County  
House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 18**  
**Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Inspection and Extension**

This bill would extend a pilot program for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to use automated noise cameras on roads. The bill has the unanimous support of the Montgomery County House Delegation and the Prince George's County House Delegation.

In 2024, the State enacted legislation authorizing these counties to each use up to three noise abatement monitoring systems to detect vehicles that are excessively loud. In the fall of 2024, both counties passed local laws to create noise camera pilot programs. The counties are now going through the procurement process to select a camera vendor. They are also identifying locations where cameras will be installed; per state law, the county must first provide public notice of the proposed locations and install signage near each camera.

All told, roughly half of the two-year pilot will have elapsed before any cameras are installed. This short time frame does not leave the counties enough time to gather data to meaningfully evaluate the program, as is required under state law.

HB 18 would extend the sunset date for the Montgomery and Prince George's pilot programs by two years. Additionally, the bill corrects an oversight from the 2024 bill by adding noise abatement monitoring systems to an existing prohibition against inspecting recorded images. The state's other automated enforcement laws (red light cameras, speed cameras, and work zone cameras) have such a prohibition.

**Background: Noise Cameras**

Noise from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems is a growing problem in communities across the state. Overly loud vehicles are a quality-of-life concern for community members, especially those adjacent to multi-lane highways where racing engines can be heard blocks away.

Maryland and federal regulations both establish a maximum sound limit of 80 decibels for vehicles sold and operating on our state's roads.<sup>1,2</sup> Under current law, it's illegal to modify a vehicle's exhaust system or to operate a vehicle that exceeds this threshold.

By using noise cameras, counties can address excessive noise concerns without increasing traffic stops by law enforcement. Noise cameras work similarly to speed cameras, with the technology placed adjacent to a road, where it measures the loudness of each vehicle that drives past. If a vehicle exceeds 85 decibels, the noise camera is triggered to take a picture of the license plate of the offending vehicle.

The cameras are sophisticated enough to recognize the difference between different types of sound by monitoring the noise pattern. As such, these noise cameras can specifically look for noise caused by illegally modified exhaust pipes and mufflers and souped up engines.

Each citation is reviewed by county police for accuracy and compliance with the law before it is sent to the vehicle owner. State law also mandates that the first citation be a warning.

### **Automated Enforcement by Other Jurisdictions**

Several states and cities have taken action to authorize and start using noise cameras. The states of New York and California enacted legislation to authorize pilot programs. In 2024, Connecticut passed a law to allow local governments to use noise cameras.

New York City has been using noise cameras for more than 3 years and is rapidly expanding their program. Their program has been very successful in detecting cars with illegally modified exhaust systems and getting vehicles into compliance with the law. In its pilot phase, New York used just one camera and caught over 500 violators. They subsequently added 7 new cameras and have approved the installation of 25 more by 2025, with up to 100 cameras anticipated by 2028.

Cameras have also been installed in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Miami Beach, Florida. Washington, DC is considering the use of noise cameras. Worldwide, several jurisdictions currently use or will soon be deploying noise cameras, including in the United Kingdom, Australia, Paris, and Taipei.

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<sup>1</sup> COMAR Section 11.14.07.13

<sup>2</sup> 40 CFR § 205.52

# **HB0018\_FAV\_City of Rockville\_Noise Abatement Monit**

Uploaded by: Marissa Valeri

Position: FAV



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville**  
**HB 18 – Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program**  
**– Inspection and Extension**  
**SUPPORT**

Good morning, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri. I thank you for this opportunity. On behalf of the City, I want to thank Delegate Palakovich Carr for sponsoring this important legislation that aligns with our Vision Zero priority.

The Mayor and Council of Rockville unanimously support HB 18, which would extend the noise abatement monitoring systems pilot programs in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties and reporting requirements by two years. The bill would provide additional time for the counties to enter into contracts with a vendor, locate appropriate placements for the technology, and gather useful data.

This pilot program is extremely important to Rockville to address ongoing concerns that residents have with noise disruptions. In recent years, excessive noise from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust has negatively impacted our community by frightening those on sidewalks, in nearby cars, and disturbing residents in the privacy of their homes. These systems will broadly expand the capability of Police to address this public nuisance, as there aren’t enough police patrols in the City and Montgomery County to respond to noise violations through traffic enforcement.

The City has advocated with County elected officials and the Montgomery County Police Department to be a pilot site for the program. We’ve received positive indications that Rockville will be included in the County’s pilot program. We asked the County to consider placing the technology at several key locations on State roads in Rockville, including the intersection of MD 28 and MD 355; the length of Lewis Avenue; the intersection of MD 586 and Atlantic Avenue; and the intersection of MD 355 and Gude Drive.

HB 18 is a critical step forward. The two-year extension from June 2026 to June 2028 sets up the pilot for success and to lay the groundwork for the technology to be authorized in all counties and municipalities in Maryland. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 18 with a favorable report. Thank you.

**HB 18 - MoCo\_MCPD\_Morningstar\_FAV (GA 25).pdf**

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

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**HB 18**

**DATE: February 21, 2025**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Palakovich Carr**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

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

**POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)**

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### **Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program – Inspection and Extension**

House Bill 18 would extend for two years, from October 1, 2025, to October 1, 2027, the reporting and termination dates of the noise abatement monitoring systems pilot program approved for Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) supports this legislation.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a two-year pilot program allowing the two counties to use automated traffic enforcement systems to monitor noise pollution related primarily to vehicles. The technology uses microphones, sensors, and cameras to automatically detect and record excessive noise levels and capture video footage of the offending vehicle which could be then used in the issuance of a citation. Extending the roll out period for this technology will help to ensure a more successful implementation of the program.

The Montgomery County Department of Police urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report on House Bill 18.

# **HB 18\_Information\_Jenoptik.pdf**

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: INFO



Testimony in Support of HB 18  
Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Inspection  
and Extension

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Presented on Behalf of Jenoptik  
February 21, 2025

Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the House Environment  
and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a technical resource for HB 18, which  
seeks to address noise disruption in communities. Jenoptik, a global leader in  
traffic safety solutions, offers this letter of information as a technical resource in  
support of noise abatement.

Jenoptik is an automated enforcement vendor that provides noise detection  
systems. Our noise detection system consists of a VECTOR camera paired with a  
sound detection panel. This type of camera utilizes infrared low-light technology to  
capture images without a visible flash, making it less disruptive to drivers and  
neighbors alike.

The data from the sound detection panel is automatically processed and works in  
conjunction with the automatic number plate recognition camera. Once a  
predefined decibel level is hit or noise anomaly registered, authorities can be  
alerted automatically. The sound is tracked reliably to its source.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are happy to work with our  
engineers to answer any technical questions you may have regarding the  
technology.

Katie Nash on behalf of Jenoptik  
301.524.9142 (cell)

# **HB0018 - MVA OATM - LOI - Vehicle Noise Abatement**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Committee  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 18 – Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Inspection and Extension***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 18 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly created the pilot program for noise abatement monitoring systems to be installed in Montgomery and Prince Georges’ counties, enabling the citation of vehicles found to violate noise limits via measured recordings. HB 18 would extend the pilot program for noise abatement monitoring systems by two years. Additionally, the bill requires custodians of recorded images produced by a noise abatement monitoring system to deny inspection of the images under the Maryland Public Information Act, subject to certain exceptions.

Currently, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) will flag a vehicle in Maryland that has an unpaid ticket assessed against the record when a jurisdiction indicates to do so. The MVA will charge a \$30 administrative fee for each flag to recover its costs incurred in doing so and cannot lift a flag until a jurisdiction indicates the unpaid citation has been resolved or is being adjudicated. The MVA established internal coding that allows it to flag a vehicle for an unpaid citation issued by the pilot noise abatement monitoring systems, but as the devices have still not been installed in either county, no flags have been issued against a vehicle at this time.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090