

January 22, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 121 – Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems Pilot Program - Inspection and Extension

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 121 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. SB 121 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 Senate Bill 121.

Respectfully submitted,

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