Expedited Bill No. 30-25
Concerning: Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Enforcement Procedures
Revised: 9/22/2025 Draft No. 1
Introduced: September 30, 2025
Enacted: November 18, 2025
Executive: December 1, 2025
Effective: December 1, 2025
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 28, Laws of Mont. Co. 2025

# COUNTY COUNCIL
# FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsors: Councilmember Glass, Council President Stewart, and Councilmembers Balcombe and Albornoz
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Luedtke, Katz, Sayles, Fani-González, and Friedson

**AN EXPEDITED ACT** to:

(1) modify enforcement procedures by repealing the requirement for photographic evidence in complaints of gas-powered leaf blower use;
(2) clarify that a single complaint may initiate enforcement of the gas-powered leaf blower ban; and
(3) generally**,** amend the law regarding noise control.

By amending
Montgomery County Code
Chapter 31B, Noise Control
Sections 31B-2, 31B-9, and 31B-12

| | |
|---|---|
| **Boldface** | *Heading or defined term.* |
| Underlining | *Added to existing law by original bill.* |
| **[**Single boldface brackets**]** | *Deleted from existing law by original bill.* |
| Double underlining | *Added by amendment.* |
| **[[**Double boldface brackets**]]** | *Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.* |
| * * * | *Existing law unaffected by bill.* |

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

**Sec. 1. Sections 31B-2, 31B-9, and 31B-12 are amended as follows:**

**31B-2. Definitions.**

* * *

*Leaf blower* means any portable device designed or intended to blow, vacuum, or move leaves or any other type of unattached debris or material by generating a concentrated stream of air. **[**Leafblower**]** Leaf blower includes devices or machines that accept vacuum attachments.

* * *

**31B-9. Leaf removal equipment.**

(a) Except as provided in this section, a person must not sell, buy, offer for sale, or use a **[**leafblower**]** leaf blower at any time that has an average sound level exceeding 70 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. This requirement is in addition to any other noise level or noise disturbance standard that applies under this Chapter.

(b) An individual who owns or occupies a residence in a residential noise area may use at the individual's residence a **[**leafblower**]** leaf blower bought or manufactured before July 1, 1990, until July 1, 1998, even if it exceeds the standard in subsection (a). After July 1, 1998, a person must not use any **[**leafblower**]** leaf blower that violates the standard in subsection (a).

(c) The Department must apply the standard in subsection (a) in accordance with the most current **[**leaf-blower**]** leaf blower testing standard of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

(d) The Department may inspect, and **[**on**]** at its request a person must produce, any **[**leafblower**]** leaf blower that is sold, offered for sale, or used in the County, to determine whether the **[**leafblower**]** leaf blower complies with this section. A person who relies in good faith on a

manufacturer's written representation of the sound level of a **[**leafblower**]** leaf blower that has not been modified is not subject to a penalty for violating this section.

(e) *Sale of combustion leaf removal equipment – prohibited*. A person must not sell or offer for sale a combustion engine-powered handheld, backpack, or walk-behind leaf blower or leaf vacuum.

(f) *Use of combustion leaf removal equipment – prohibited*. A person must not use a combustion engine-powered handheld, backpack, or walk-behind leaf blower or leaf vacuum.

* * *

(j) *Complaint and enforcement procedures.* An enforcement officer may issue a civil citation under this Section if: **[**the Director receives a complaint of a noise disturbance supported by photographic evidence of a violation of subsection (f).**]**

(1) the Director receives a complaint from at least one witness of a noise disturbance in violation of subsection (f); and

(2) the complaint was received by the Director within 7 days of the alleged violation.

**31B-12. Enforcement and penalties.**

* * *

(f) Except as provided in Section 31B-9(j), an enforcement officer may issue a civil citation for any violation of this Chapter if the enforcement officer:

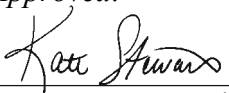
(1) witnesses the violation; or

(2) receives complaints from at least 2 witnesses of a noise disturbance. Complaints by 2 witnesses are required to issue a citation under paragraph (2), but are not required to prove that a person violated this Chapter.

* * *

**Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.** The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date on which it becomes law.

*Approved:*



November 18, 2025

Kate Stewart, President, County Council — Date

*Approved:*

December 1, 2025

Marc Elrich, County Executive — Date

*This is a correct copy of Council action.*

December 1, 2025

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council — Date