

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2024 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-091-2024

Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed and Presented by The Chair (by request - County Executive)

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction \_\_\_\_\_

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Vehicle Noise Abatement Monitoring – Pilot Program

3 For the purpose of establishing a pilot program to authorize the use of noise abatement  
4 monitoring systems in the County to better assist the Prince George’s County Police Department  
5 in enforcing certain motor vehicle noise requirements.

6 BY adding:

7 SUBTITLE 18. POLICE.

8 Section 18-123

9 The Prince George's County Code

10 (2023 Edition).

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
12 Maryland, that Section 18-123 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby  
13 added:

14 **SUBTITLE 18. POLICE.**

15 **DIVISION 4. MISCELLANEOUS POLICE MATTERS.**

16 **Sec. 18-123. Vehicle Noise Abatement Monitoring – Pilot Program.**

17 (a) Definitions. In this Section, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

18 (1) Chief means the Prince George’s County Police Department Chief of Police or  
19 the Chief’s designee.

20 (2) Department means the Prince George’s County Police Department.

21 (3) Program or Pilot Program means the Vehicle Noise Abatement Monitoring Pilot

1 Program established under this Section.

2 (4) The following terms have the same meanings as indicated under Chapter 624 of  
3 the 2024 Laws of Maryland:

4 (A) Agency means a County law enforcement agency that is authorized to issue a  
5 citation for a violation of the Maryland Vehicle law or of Local Traffic laws  
6 or regulations.

7 (B) Noise Abatement Monitoring System means a mobile or fixed vehicle sensor  
8 that works in conjunction with a noise measuring device, such as a decibel  
9 reader, that automatically produces two or more photographs, two or more  
10 microphotographs, a videotape, or other recorded images of a motor vehicle  
11 at the time the motor vehicle is operated during the commission of a  
12 violation.

13 (C) Noise Abatement Monitoring System Operator means a representative of an  
14 Agency or a Contractor that operates a noise abatement monitoring system.

15 (D) Owner means the registered owner of a motor vehicle or a lessee of a motor  
16 vehicle under a lease of 6 months or more.

17 (E) Program Liaison means the local designee required under Chapter 624 of the  
18 2024 Laws of Maryland.

19 (F) Recorded Image means an image recorded by a noise abatement monitoring  
20 system on a photograph, a microphotograph, an electronic image; videotape;  
21 or any other medium; that shows the rear of a motor vehicle, the decibel  
22 level recorded for the motor vehicle at the time of recordation, and on at least  
23 one image or portion of tape, a clear and legible identification of the entire  
24 registration plate number of the motor vehicle.

25 (G) Violation means a violation of Section 22-602 of the Maryland  
26 Transportation Article, by at least 5 decibels.

27 (b) Program established. There is a Vehicle Noise Abatement Monitoring Pilot Program  
28 implemented by the Department pursuant to Chapter 624 of the 2024 Laws of Maryland.

29 (c) Program requirements and location of monitoring systems.

30 (1) The Department must deploy and utilize 3 noise abatement monitoring systems  
31 within the County to enforce motor vehicle noise requirements under Section 22-602 of the

1 Transportation Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

2 (2) The County must not deploy or utilize a noise abatement monitoring system with  
3 the County for any purpose other than to enforce motor vehicle noise requirements under Section  
4 22-602 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

5 (3) Before activating a noise abatement monitoring system, the Department must:

6 (A) publish notice of the location of the noise abatement monitoring system on  
7 the County website; and

8 (B) ensure that each noise abatement monitoring system is proximate to a sign  
9 that:

10 (i) indicates that noise abatement monitoring systems are in use in the area;

11 and

12 (ii) is in accordance with the manual and the specifications for a uniform  
13 system of traffic control devices adopted by the State Highway Administration under Section 25-  
14 104 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code, as amended.

15 (4) If the Department moves or places a noise abatement monitoring system to or at a  
16 location where a noise abatement monitoring system had not previously been moved or placed,  
17 the Department must not issue a citation for a violation recorded by that noise abatement  
18 monitoring system:

19 (A) until signage is installed in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection;

20 and

21 (B) for at least the first 15 calendar days after the signage is installed.

22 (d) Program Liaison.

23 (1) The Chief must designate a Program Liaison to investigate and respond to questions  
24 or concerns about the County's about the County's Noise Abatement Monitoring System Pilot  
25 Program.

26 (2) The Program Liaison must not:

27 (A) be employed by a noise abatement monitoring system contractor, or

28 (B) have been involved in the initial review or issuance of the warning notice o  
29 citation.

30 (3) The program liaison must:

31 (A) investigate and respond to questions or concerns about the pilot program;

1                   (B) review a warning notice or citation generated by a noise abatement  
2 monitoring system if the person who received the warning notice or citation requests review  
3 before the deadline for contesting liability under Chapter 624 of the 2024 Laws of Maryland;

4                   (C) subject to paragraph (4), if the program liaison determines that the warning  
5 notice or citation is an erroneous violation, void the warning notice or citation;

6                   (D) on receipt of a written question or concern from a person, provide a written  
7 answer or response to the person within a reasonable time; and

8                   (E) if the Program Liaison voids or waives a citation, notify the Maryland Vehicle  
9 Administration for the purpose of rescinding any administrative penalties imposed by the  
10 Maryland Vehicle Administration.

11                   (4) The Program Liaison must not determine that a warning notice or citation is an  
12 erroneous violatioono based solely upon the dismissal of the warning notice or citation by a  
13 court.

14                   (5) If the Program Liaison determines that a person did not receive notice of a warning  
15 notice or citation due to an administrative error, the Program Liaison may resend the warning  
16 notice or citation in accordance with Chapter 624 of the 2024 Laws of Maryland.

17                   (6) The Program Liaison may waive a warning notice or citation if the person alleged  
18 to be liable under this Section provides sufficient evidence that the person has made any  
19 alterations to the motor vehicle necessary to avoid future violations.

20                   (e) Operations and enforcement.

21                   (1) Operation of a monitoring system. In accordance with Chapter 624 of the 2024  
22 Laws of Maryland, a noise abatement monitoring system:

23                   (A) must be operated by a trained and qualified operator; and

24                   (B) must undergo an annual calibration check by an independent calibration  
25 laboratory.

26                   (2) Warning notices and citations – contents and mailing. A warning notice or citation  
27 issued under this Section must be mailed to an owner and must include the information required  
28 under Chapter 624 of the 2024 Laws of Maryland.

29                   (3) Number and timing of citations – limitations. The Department must not:

30                   (A) issue more than one citation to a person per day for a violation enforced by a  
31 noise abatement monitoring system;

1                   (B) issue a citation applicable to a motor vehicle during the first 30 days after a  
2 warning for a first offense applicable to the motor vehicle is mailed to the owner.

3                   (4) District Court procedures. The Department must administer and process civil  
4 citations issued under this Section:

5                           (A) using a uniform citation from prescribed by the District Court; and

6                           (B) in accordance with procedures adopted by the Chief Judge of the District  
7 Court.

8                   (5) County contractors. If a contractor operates a noise abatement monitoring system  
9 or administers or processes warning notices of citations generated by a noise abatement  
10 monitoring system on behalf of the County, the contractor’s fee must not be contingent upon a  
11 per-ticket basis on the number of warning notices or citations issued or paid.

12                   (f) Civil penalties. A person liable for a violation enforced by a noise abatement  
13 monitoring system is subject to:

14                           (1) for a first offense, a warning notice; and

15                           (2) for a second or subsequent offense, a civil penalty not exceeding \$75.

16                   (g) Use of funds. The fines collected by the County as a result of violations enforced by  
17 noise abatement monitoring systems must be used solely:

18                           (1) to recover the costs of implementing and administering the noise abatement  
19 monitoring systems; and

20                           (2) for public safety purposes, including pedestrian safety programs.

21                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*                   \*

22                   SECTION 2. This Act must sunset, and must have no further force or effect, at the end of  
23 June 30, 2026.

24                   SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby  
25 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,  
26 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of  
27 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining  
28 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this  
29 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such  
30 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,  
31 or section.

1 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on forty-five (45)  
2 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jolene Ivey  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

\* \* \* \* \*