

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-075-2026

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Dernoga

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Quiet and Clean Landscaping Equipment

3 For the purpose of providing legislative findings and purpose; providing definitions; providing
 4 for prohibited acts and a certain phased prohibition; providing for certain exemptions; providing
 5 a requirement for County government and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
 6 Commission; providing for enforcement and measurement; providing for public education and
 7 transition assistance; providing for penalties; and generally regarding quiet and clean
 8 landscaping equipment.

9 BY adding:

10 SUBTITLE 19. POLLUTION.

11 Sections 19-127, 19-127.01, 19-127.02, 19-127.03,
 12 19-127.04, 19-127.05, 19-127.06, and 19-127.07

13 The Prince George's County Code
 14 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
 16 Maryland, that Sections 19-127, 19-127.01, 19-127.02, 19-127.03, 19-127.04, 19-127.05, 19-
 17 127.06, and 19-127.07 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

18 **SUBTITLE 19. POLLUTION.**

19 **DIVISION 2B. QUIET AND CLEAN LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT.**

20 **Sec. 19-127. Legislative Findings and Purpose.**

21 The purpose of this Division is to protect public health, peace, and the environment by

phasing out the use of the loudest and most polluting landscape equipment through a decibel-based standard, ultimately prohibiting the sale of non-compliant equipment, and requiring the use of quieter alternatives.

Sec. 19-127.01. Definitions.

In this Division, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

(a) **Commercial User** means any person, including a self-employed individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity, that uses a regulated leaf blower in the course of business, including property maintenance, landscaping, or groundskeeping services.

(b) **Decibel (dBA)** means the A-weighted sound pressure level, a unit of measurement for environmental and community noise.

(c) **Director** means the Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), or their designee.

(d) **Gas-Powered** means powered by a spark ignition or compression ignition engine utilizing gasoline, diesel, or any other fossil fuel.

(e) **Operator** means an individual who operates a regulated leaf blower.

(f) **Person** means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or any other legal entity.

(g) **Regulated Leaf Blower** means any portable, handheld or backpack-style machine, gas-powered or electric, designed or used to blow leaves, grass, dirt, debris, or other materials.

(h) **Residential User** means any person who uses a regulated leaf blower on property they own, rent, or occupy, and not in the course of a business.

Sec. 19-127.02. Prohibited Acts – Sound Level Standard and Phased Prohibition.

(a) **Performance Standard:** No person shall use a regulated leaf blower that generates a sound level exceeding 70 dBA at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the operator, under standardized testing conditions as prescribed by regulation of the Director.

(b) **Phased Implementation of Use Prohibition.**

(1) **Effective July 1, 2027:** The standard in subsection (a) applies to all use within the County. During an initial education period of one year from this date, the Director shall issue warnings for violations but may impose penalties for repeat violations.

(2) **Effective July 1, 2028:** The standard in subsection (a) is fully enforced with penalties as provided in Section 19-127.07. This standard effectively prohibits the use of

1 virtually all commercially available gas-powered leaf blowers, which typically operate between
 2 75-110 dBA at 50 feet, while allowing most electric models.

3 (c) Prohibition on Sale. effective July 1, 2028, no person shall sell, offer for sale, or lease
 4 at retail within Prince George's County any new gas-powered regulated leaf blower.

5 **Sec.19-127.03. Exemptions.**

6 The prohibitions of Section 19-127.02 shall not apply to:

7 (a) Use by or on behalf of a federal, state, or local government entity, except for Prince
 8 George's County Government and MNCPPC as provided in § 19-127.04.

9 (b) Use for agricultural operations, as defined in County Code.

10 (c) Use on golf courses.

11 (d) Use at properties of ten (10) acres or more.

12 (e) Use for emergency cleanup operations immediately following a storm, declared
 13 emergency, or other catastrophic event, as approved by the Director.

14 **Sec.19-127.04. Requirement for County Government and MNCPPC.**

15 (a) All Prince George's County government agencies, departments, and contractors
 16 performing work on behalf of the County shall cease the use of any regulated leaf blower that
 17 does not meet the standard in Section 19-127.02 by July 1, 2027.

18 (b) The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) operating
 19 within Prince George's County is strongly urged and requested by the Council to adopt an
 20 identical policy and compliance timeline for its operations within the County.

21 **Sec. 19-127.05. Enforcement and Measurement.**

22 (a) The Director is authorized to enforce this Division.

23 (b) Enforcement may be initiated upon complaint. The Director shall develop a protocol
 24 for the measurement of sound levels from regulated leaf blowers using a sound level meter
 25 meeting ANSI Type 1 or Type 2 standards.

26 (c) A violation occurs if a single measurement taken in accordance with the Director's
 27 protocol demonstrates a sound level in excess of the standard in Section 19-127.02.

28 **Sec. 19-127.06. Public Education and Transition Assistance.**

29 The Department of Environment, in coordination with the Director, Department of Permits
 30 Inspection and Enforcement, shall conduct a public information campaign on the requirements of
 31 this Division and the benefits of quiet, electric equipment. The Department of the Environment

1 shall explore and may establish a grant or voucher program to assist commercial users,
2 particularly small businesses, in transitioning to compliant equipment.

3 **Sec. 19-127.07. Penalties.**

4 Any person who violates this Division is subject to a civil penalty as follows:

5 (a) First violation: A fine not exceeding \$100.

6 (b) Second violation within a 12-month period: A fine not exceeding \$250.

7 (c) Third and subsequent violations within a 12-month period: A fine not exceeding \$500.

8 Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

9 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
10 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
11 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
12 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
13 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
14 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
15 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
16 or section.

17 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
18 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
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.

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