

2024 -- S 2898

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LC004418
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- NOISE LIMITS FOR MOTOR
VEHICLES

Introduced By: Senator Jacob Bissaillon

Date Introduced: March 22, 2024

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-45-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-45 entitled "Noise Limits
2 for Motor Vehicles" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-45-1. Noise limits.**

4 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, nor shall the owner of any vehicle allow the
5 vehicle to be operated, at any time, or under any condition of grade, load, acceleration, or
6 deceleration, in such a manner as to exceed the following noise limit based on a distance of fifty
7 feet (50') from the center of the lane of travel within the speed limit. For the purposes of this section,
8 "dbA" means decibels measured with a calibrated sound level meter weighted to the "A" scale, and
9 "dbC" means decibels measured with a calibrated sound level meter weighted to the "C" scale.

10 (b) In speed zones of thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) or less, not more than eighty-six
11 (86) dbA. In speed zones of more than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph), not more than ninety
12 (90) dbA.

13 (c) Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

14 (d) Municipalities are hereby authorized to install and operate automated noise violation
15 detection systems. Such systems shall be limited to systems which monitor and detect violations of
16 noise limits. Municipalities are also authorized to install and operate automated noise violation
17 detection systems that measure dbC levels and promulgate ordinances that define acceptable dbC
18 levels. For purposes of this section, an automated noise violation detection system means a system

1 [with one or more sensors which produces images of motor vehicles being operated in violation of](#)
2 [this section along with a detected dbA level or dbC level caused by the vehicle. Any violations or](#)
3 [finances associated with this section may not be for any amount greater than the penalties enumerated](#)
4 [in § 31-45-4.](#)

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would enable municipalities to install and use automated systems to detect noise
- 2 limit violations in order to enhance enforcement abilities and reduce noise violations state-wide.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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