

HOUSE BILL 1223

R6, M3

EMERGENCY BILL

11r2963
CF SB 12

By: **Delegate Malone**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2011

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Environmental Matters, February 28, 2011

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2011

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force – Reconstitution**

3 FOR the purpose of reconstituting the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety
4 Task Force; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force;
5 providing for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task
6 Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task
7 Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force
8 to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; making
9 this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act;
10 stating the intent of the General Assembly; and generally relating to the
11 Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

15 (b) The Task Force consists of:

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor in consultation
2 with the Secretary of Transportation:

3 (i) one representative from the Department of Transportation;

4 (ii) one representative from the Department of the
5 Environment;

6 (iii) two or three individuals who:

7 1. represent the organized blind community in this
8 State;

9 2. are legally blind; and

10 3. have experience or expertise in training blind people
11 to travel safely and independently;

12 (iv) two or three individuals representing pedestrian
13 organizations in this State; and

14 (v) one representative of an organization representing the
15 interests of automobile manufacturers.

16 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its
17 membership.

18 (d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Task
19 Force from the Department of Transportation.

20 (e) A member of the Task Force:

21 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

22 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
23 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

24 (f) The Task Force shall:

25 (1) study:

26 (i) the effects of vehicle sound on pedestrian safety; and

27 (ii) all available technology that may enhance the safety of blind
28 pedestrians;

1 (2) review all available research regarding the effects of vehicle sound
2 on pedestrian safety;

3 (3) consult with:

4 (i) consumer groups representing individuals who are blind,
5 other pedestrians, and cyclists; and

6 (ii) advocates for the safety of children;

7 (4) as appropriate, contract for additional research and studies to be
8 conducted;

9 (5) conduct hearings to accept testimony from:

10 (i) experts on acoustics, automobile design, environmental
11 quality, orientation and mobility for blind people, pedestrian safety, and other
12 relevant fields; and

13 (ii) interested members of the public; and

14 (6) make recommendations concerning:

15 (i) a minimum sound level and the nature and characteristics
16 of the minimum sound to be required for all new vehicles sold and registered in the
17 State; and

18 (ii) the use of technology to enhance the safety of blind
19 pedestrians.

20 (g) The Task Force is not required to specify the method or technology
21 through which automobile manufacturers must implement the recommended sound
22 standard.

23 (h) On or before June 30, 2013, the Task Force shall report its final findings
24 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
25 Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
27 General Assembly that the Governor appoint to the Maryland Quiet Vehicles and
28 Pedestrian Safety Task Force those individuals who formerly were appointed to the
29 predecessor Task Force established under Chapter 249 of the Acts of the General
30 Assembly of 2009 and who were serving on the Task Force as of December 31, 2010.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
32 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
33 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members

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1 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
2 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2013, and, at the end
3 of June 30, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
4 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.