

1 S.231

2 Introduced by Senators Bray and Hardy

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; noise; exhaust system modifications

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
7 operation of a motor vehicle that was manufactured with an exhaust system
8 from being operated when equipped with an inadequate or modified muffler or
9 exhaust system or with an amplification device.

10 An act relating to excessive motor vehicle noise

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1221 is amended to read:

13 § 1221. CONDITION OF VEHICLE; EXCESSIVE NOISE

14 (a) A motor vehicle, operated on any highway, shall be in good mechanical
15 condition and shall be properly equipped.

16 (b) An individual shall not operate a motor vehicle manufactured with an
17 exhaust system that has been modified to be equipped with a muffler lacking
18 interior baffle plates or other effective muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a
19 muffler cutout, a straight pipe exhaust, or a device or modification that
20 amplifies the noise emitted by the vehicle.

1 (c) A motor vehicle equipped or modified as described in subdivision (b) of
2 this section shall not pass an inspection required under section 1222 of this
3 subchapter.

4 (d) An individual who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be
5 subject to a civil penalty of not less than:

6 (1) \$100.00 for a first violation;

7 (2) \$200.00 for a second violation; and

8 (3) \$350.00 for a third or subsequent violation.

9 Sec. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE PERIODIC INSPECTION MANUAL

10 On or before July 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
11 finally adopt amendments to the Periodic Inspection Manual that address
12 different requirements for motor vehicles not manufactured with an exhaust
13 system, unless that deadline is extended by the Legislative Committee on
14 Administrative Rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 843(c).

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.