

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB367

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Watts

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Exhaust systems; excessive noise.

5. Summary: Prohibits the sale of any mechanical or electrical device that creates or amplifies noise emitted by a vehicle that is louder than the noise emitted by the vehicle as originally manufactured. The bill also prohibits any person from operating a motor vehicle with an exhaust system that emits noise in excess of 85 decibels, as measured from a distance of 50 feet. It allows the governing body of any locality within the Northern Virginia Planning District to provide by ordinance that no person may drive a vehicle within 500 feet of a residential district unless it is equipped with an exhaust system that is in good working order and that prevents excessive noise. The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to promulgate regulations related to these rules in the motor vehicle safety inspections process.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 430.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of State Police (VSP), the proposed legislation would require the agency to purchase decibel meters for all of its troopers so they can determine when an exhaust system noise violates the provisions of the bill. The total cost to purchase decibel meters to implement this legislation is \$53,000. VSP also estimates the agency will incur approximately \$750 annually in printing calibration forms related to this bill. The total annual estimated cost to VSP is \$53,750.

Any potential fiscal impact to localities or to local law enforcement agencies cannot be determined at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police, Localities, Local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.