



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Committee Bill No. 5145

LCO No. 4366

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

**AN ACT INCREASING THE FINE FOR INSTALLING OR USING
MUFFLER SYSTEMS THAT CAUSE EXCESSIVE NOISE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 (a) Each motor vehicle and the devices on such vehicle shall be
4 operated, equipped, constructed and adjusted to prevent unnecessary
5 or unusual noise.

6 (b) Each motor vehicle operated by an internal combustion engine
7 shall be equipped, except as hereinafter provided, with a muffler or
8 mufflers designed to prevent excessive, unusual or unnecessary
9 exhaust noise. The muffler or mufflers shall be maintained by the
10 owner in good working order and shall be in use whenever the motor
11 vehicle is operated. No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or
12 repairer or a motorcycle dealer, shall install, and no person shall use,
13 on a motor vehicle, a muffler or mufflers lacking interior baffle plates
14 or other effective muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a muffler cutout
15 or a straight exhaust except when the motor vehicle is operated in a

16 race, contest or demonstration of speed or skill as a public exhibition
17 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 14-164a, or any mechanical device
18 which will amplify the noise emitted by the vehicle. No person,
19 including a motor vehicle dealer or repairer or a motorcycle dealer,
20 shall remove all or part of any muffler on a motor vehicle except to
21 repair or replace the muffler or part for the more effective prevention
22 of noise. No person shall use on the exhaust system or tail pipe of a
23 motor vehicle any extension or device which will cause excessive or
24 unusual noise.

25 (c) The engine of every motor vehicle shall be equipped and
26 adjusted to prevent excessive fumes or exhaust smoke.

27 (d) All pipes carrying exhaust gases from the motor shall be
28 constructed of, and maintained with, leak-proof metal. Exhaust pipes
29 shall be directed from the muffler or mufflers toward the rear of the
30 vehicle and shall be approximately parallel with the longitudinal axis
31 of the vehicle and approximately parallel to the surface of the
32 roadway, or shall be directed from the muffler upward to a location
33 above the cab or body of the vehicle so that fumes, gases and smoke
34 are directed away from the occupants of the vehicle. Exhaust pipes on
35 a passenger vehicle shall extend to the extreme rear end of the vehicle's
36 body, not including the bumper and its attachments to the body, or
37 shall be attached to the vehicle in such a way that the exhaust pipes
38 direct the exhaust gases to either side of the vehicle ensuring that fresh
39 ambient air is located under the vehicle at all times. The Commissioner
40 of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations in accordance with the
41 provisions of chapter 54 to establish safety standards for passenger
42 vehicles equipped with exhaust pipes located in front of the rear axle.

43 (e) Every motor vehicle shall, when operated on a highway, be
44 equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting
45 sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less
46 than two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit
47 an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

48 (f) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use on a
49 vehicle, any siren, whistle or bell as a warning signal device, except as
50 otherwise permitted by this section. Any motor vehicle may be
51 equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it
52 cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any
53 authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle
54 or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions
55 from a distance of not less than five hundred feet and of a type
56 approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Such signal shall not
57 be used unless the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call
58 or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the
59 law, in which event the driver of the vehicle shall sound the signal
60 when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of
61 the approach of the vehicle.

62 (g) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
63 [deemed to have committed an infraction] fined one hundred fifty
64 dollars for each offense.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

TRA

Joint Favorable C/R

JUD