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H.312

Introduced by Representative Bartholomew of Hartland

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; noise

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to, with limited exceptions, prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle equipped with an inadequate or modified muffler or exhaust system or with an amplification device.

An act relating to excessive motor vehicle noise

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

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

§ 1221. CONDITION OF VEHICLE; EXCESSIVE NOISE

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

(b)(1) An individual shall not operate on a highway a motor vehicle equipped with a muffler lacking interior baffle plates or other effective muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a muffler cutout, a straight pipe exhaust, or a device or modification that amplifies the noise emitted by the vehicle.

1 (2) The prohibition of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply
2 when a motor vehicle is operated in a race, contest, or demonstration of speed
3 or skill at an authorized public exhibition held in accordance with State or
4 municipal law and land use permits.

5 (c) A motor vehicle equipped or modified as described in subdivision
6 (b)(1) of this section shall not pass an inspection required under section 1222
7 of this title. An individual who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be
8 subject to a civil penalty of not less than:

9 (1) \$100.00 for a first violation;

10 (2) \$200.00 for a second violation; and

11 (3) \$350.00 for a third or subsequent violation.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.