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H.675

Introduced by Representative Austin of Colchester

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; noise; exhaust system modifications

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 may not operate a motor vehicle with an exhaust system that has been modified when the result of that modification is the amplification or increase of noise emitted by the motor above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle. An individual who violates this subdivision shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than:

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

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

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

4           (2) It shall be a defense to a violation of subdivision (1) of this

5 subsection if a muffler or exhaust system of a motor vehicle does not emit

6 noise in excess of 95 decibels as measured in accordance with SAE

7 International (SAE) standard J1492, as amended, or any subsequent standard

8 developed and implemented by SAE. Measurements must be made by a

9 participating certified inspection station.

10          (c) A motor vehicle equipped or modified as described in subdivision

11 (b)(1) of this section shall not pass an inspection required under section 1222

12 of this title.

13          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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