

1 H.119

2 Introduced by Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland, Austin of  
3 Colchester, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury,  
4 Lalley of Shelburne, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Sheldon of  
5 Middlebury

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Motor vehicles; noise

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

13 An act relating to excessive motor vehicle noise

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

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

16 § 1221. CONDITION OF VEHICLE; EXCESSIVE NOISE

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

19 (b)(1) An individual shall not operate on a highway a motor vehicle  
20 equipped with a muffler lacking interior baffle plates or other effective

1 muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a muffler cutout, a straight pipe exhaust, or  
2 a device or modification that amplifies the noise emitted by the vehicle.

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

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

11 (1) \$100.00 for a first violation;

12 (2) \$200.00 for a second violation; and

13 (3) \$350.00 for a third or subsequent violation.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.