

STATE OF MARYLAND

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Shari T. Wilson, Secretary**

**BILL NO: SB 152**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

**POSITION: Support**

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**TITLE:** Harford County – Sheriff’s Office – Power to Enforce Noise Control Laws

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Environment to delegate enforcement of noise control provisions to the Sheriff of Harford County.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** Support.

MDE strongly supports this bill. We have had prior conversations with the Sheriff’s Department to try and delegate this authority, but the structure of the Harford County government requires that we take a legislative approach. Since funding to MDE was removed for enforcement of the noise regulations, we have tried to make every effort to enable local enforcement. Noise violations are short-lived, and often by the time the Department could arrive, the noise was temporarily abated and no enforcement was possible, thus noise enforcement is best done at the local level. Noise pollution can have a very serious negative impact on quality of life – it is more than just nuisance. Citizens need some way to address concerns about noise pollution, and this will provide a very effective means to do so in Harford County. We commend the Sheriff’s Office for its willingness to accept this additional responsibility.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
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