



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6744**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING COMPENSATORY REFORESTATION PLANS,  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF NOISE BARRIERS, DECIBEL TESTING FOR  
MOTOR VEHICLES AND IDLING MOTOR VEHICLES..**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) On or before July 1,  
2 2024, and annually thereafter, the Department of Transportation shall  
3 develop and submit to the Department of Energy and Environmental  
4 Protection, a plan for the compensatory reforestation for all areas of not  
5 less than one-half acre in size that are owned or maintained by the  
6 Department of Transportation and scheduled for deforestation. The  
7 compensatory reforestation plan shall establish a goal of no net loss of  
8 existing forested areas based upon a reasonable and practical tree  
9 replacement factor developed in accordance with the regulations  
10 adopted pursuant to this section. Such plan shall be subject to approval  
11 by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. After the  
12 date the Department of Transportation submits such plan, the  
13 department shall not commence a project that would result in the  
14 deforestation of land of not less than one-half acre in size that is owned  
15 or maintained by the department unless the department's compensatory  
16 reforestation plan is approved by the Department of Energy and  
17 Environmental Protection.

18 (b) Each compensatory reforestation plan developed pursuant to this  
19 section shall: (1) Provide that, if tree planting adjacent to the deforested  
20 area is not feasible, tree planting shall be conducted within the  
21 municipality in which the deforestation occurred, within five miles of  
22 the site of deforestation or on an off-site property in accordance with the  
23 provisions of this section; and (2) include appropriate and approved  
24 methods for the planting, protection, care and management of trees and  
25 other related natural resources.

26 (c) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
27 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the  
28 general statutes, to develop requirements for a compensatory  
29 reforestation plan. Such requirements shall include, but need not be  
30 limited to, the following:

31 (1) If the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the  
32 Department of Transportation determines that it is not feasible to  
33 conduct the required tree-planting efforts on the site of deforestation,  
34 the tree planting shall be conducted first on state property within the  
35 municipality in which the deforestation occurred or, secondly, on  
36 municipal property within the municipality in which the deforestation  
37 occurred, provided the municipality agrees to such tree planting. For  
38 purposes of this subdivision, "municipal property" means property  
39 owned by a municipality, including parks, streets, schools, municipal  
40 facilities and open space and recreational areas;

41 (2) If the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the  
42 Department of Transportation determines that it is not feasible to  
43 conduct such tree-planting efforts on the site of deforestation or within  
44 the municipality, the tree planting shall be conducted on property  
45 located within five miles of the site of the deforestation that is owned or  
46 maintained by a state agency, as defined in section 4-67g of the general  
47 statutes, or any other municipality, provided the state agency or other  
48 municipality, as the case may be, agrees to such tree planting;

49 (3) If the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the

50 Department of Transportation determines that it is not feasible to  
51 conduct the tree-planting efforts on the site of deforestation, within the  
52 municipality or within five miles of the site of deforestation, the tree  
53 planting shall be conducted on an off-site property owned or  
54 maintained by a state agency, provided the state agency agrees to such  
55 tree planting;

56 (4) For any such tree planting, the Department of Transportation shall  
57 use native species when practicable;

58 (5) The shape or configuration of the reforested area may be  
59 substantially similar to the shape or configuration of the deforested area;

60 (6) The replacement of trees shall be determined by the tree  
61 replacement factor and shall be based upon accepted forestry research  
62 and practices that show the average tree density within urban areas to  
63 be two hundred four trees per acre of tree cover;

64 (7) In using the tree replacement factor, or TRF, for sites that are  
65 deforested, the following number of stems shall be calculated for  
66 seeding, caliper and whip/container trees:

T1 TRF = 204 (2" - 2 1/2") caliper trees per acre

T2 = 408 whip/container (4' - 6') trees per acre

T3 = 1210 tree seedlings per acre;

67 (8) The seedlings used for such replanting shall be planted from six  
68 to ten feet apart, or at a distance mutually agreed to by the Departments  
69 of Energy and Environmental Protection and Transportation, and such  
70 seedlings shall be those that are the most suitable for the site; and

71 (9) The species of caliper nursery-grown trees measured at two and  
72 one-half inches and whips at one and one-half inches shall be planted  
73 based upon the compensatory reforestation plan and subject to the

74 standards established by the American Horticulture Industry  
75 Association. Diversity in species composition shall be required to reduce  
76 the risk of widespread loss of trees to single insect and disease  
77 infestation. Similar species shall not exceed thirty per cent of the total  
78 planting.

79 (d) The Department of Transportation shall enter into a  
80 memorandum of agreement with the Department of Energy and  
81 Environmental Protection to reimburse the Department of Energy and  
82 Environmental Protection for the actual labor hours attributable to the  
83 review and implementation of the Department of Transportation's  
84 compensatory reforestation plan pursuant to this section. In the event  
85 the reforestation required by a compensatory reforestation plan cannot  
86 be accomplished with regard to a project commenced by the  
87 Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy and  
88 Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation may  
89 agree within such memorandum of agreement that the Department of  
90 Transportation shall pay an amount equal to the value of the number of  
91 trees required, as determined by the tree replacement factor and in  
92 accordance with the approved compensatory reforestation plan. Any  
93 such payment shall be deposited in an account controlled by the  
94 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to be used for  
95 reforestation by the department. Such memorandum of agreement shall  
96 be part of the Department of Transportation's compensatory  
97 reforestation plan.

98 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) For the purposes of this  
99 section, "Type II project" has the same meaning as provided in 23 CFR  
100 772.5, as amended from time to time. The Department of Transportation  
101 shall develop and implement a Type II program in accordance with the  
102 provisions of 23 CFR 772, as amended from time to time, to provide for  
103 the construction of noise barriers along an existing highway. The  
104 department shall conduct a state-wide evaluation of the feasibility and  
105 reasonableness of constructing noise barriers for Type II projects and  
106 identify the benefits, length, location and approximate construction

107 costs associated with such projects. The department shall establish a  
108 priority rating system to rank such projects and use such system to  
109 establish a priority list of such projects.

110       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) On or before February 1, 2024, the  
111 Department of Transportation shall submit, in accordance with the  
112 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
113 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
114 relating to transportation, the results of the evaluation conducted  
115 pursuant to section 2 of this act and a description of the priority ranking  
116 system and the priority list developed pursuant to said section.

117       Sec. 4. Section 19 of public act 22-44 is repealed and the following is  
118 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*)

119       Not later than [January] October 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Motor  
120 Vehicles shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
121 4a of the general statutes, a plan to implement a state-wide decibel level  
122 testing program for motor vehicles and motorcycles at official emissions  
123 inspection stations, as defined in section 14-164b of the general statutes,  
124 and any recommendations for legislation and funding necessary for  
125 such implementation, to the joint standing committees of the General  
126 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation,  
127 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue  
128 and bonding.

129       Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 14-80a of the general statutes is  
130 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
131 *2023*):

132       (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, with the advice of the  
133 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, adopt  
134 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,  
135 establishing (1) the maximum decibel levels permissible for motor  
136 vehicles, which shall not exceed the maximum decibel levels established  
137 for motor vehicles by federal law or regulation, and (2) the procedure

138 for testing maximum decibel levels. The commissioner shall amend such  
139 regulations to reflect industry standards and advancements in  
140 technology and shall submit the amended regulations to the standing  
141 legislative regulation review committee under section 4-170 not later  
142 than ~~January~~ October 1, 2024.

143 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) Any municipality may, by  
144 ordinance adopted by its legislative body, establish a fine for any  
145 violation of the prohibition against operating the engine of a motor  
146 vehicle for more than three consecutive minutes as set forth in  
147 regulations adopted pursuant to section 22a-174 of the general statutes,  
148 provided such fine shall not be more than ninety dollars per violation.  
149 Any police officer or other person authorized by the chief executive  
150 officer of the municipality may issue a citation to any person who  
151 commits such violation. Any municipality that adopts an ordinance  
152 pursuant to this section shall also adopt a citation hearing procedure  
153 pursuant to section 7-152c of the general statutes, as amended by this  
154 act, by which procedure such fine shall be imposed. Any fine collected  
155 by a municipality pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the  
156 general fund of the municipality or in any special fund designated by  
157 the municipality.

158 Sec. 7. Subsection (c) of section 7-152c of the general statutes is  
159 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
160 *1, 2023*):

161 (c) Any such municipality, at any time within twelve months from  
162 the expiration of the final period for the uncontested payment of fines,  
163 penalties, costs or fees for any citation issued under any ordinance  
164 adopted pursuant to section 7-148, ~~[or section] 7-152e, section 5 of this~~  
165 ~~act or section 22a-226d~~, for an alleged violation thereof, shall send notice  
166 to the person cited. Such notice shall inform the person cited: (1) Of the  
167 allegations against ~~[him]~~ such person and the amount of the fines,  
168 penalties, costs or fees due; (2) that ~~[he]~~ such person may contest ~~[his]~~  
169 such person's liability before a citation hearing officer by delivering in  
170 person or by mail written notice within ten days of the date thereof; (3)

171 that if [he] such person does not demand such a hearing, an assessment  
172 and judgment shall be entered against [him] such person; and (4) that  
173 such judgment may issue without further notice. For purposes of this  
174 section, notice shall be presumed to have been properly sent if such  
175 notice was mailed to such person's last-known address on file with the  
176 tax collector. If the person to whom such notice is issued is a registrant,  
177 the municipality may deliver such notice in accordance with section 7-  
178 148ii, provided nothing in this section shall preclude a municipality  
179 from providing notice in another manner permitted by applicable law.

180       Sec. 8. (*Effective October 1, 2023*) On and after October 1, 2023, and  
181 until October 1, 2024, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall establish  
182 a pilot program to test different methodologies for inspecting the  
183 maximum decibel level produced by a motor vehicle at five official  
184 emission inspection stations, as defined in section 14-164b of the general  
185 statutes, selected by the department for inclusion in such program. Such  
186 decibel level inspection shall be conducted at the time a motor vehicle is  
187 presented for inspection pursuant to subsection (c) of section 14-164c of  
188 the general statutes at a selected official emissions inspection station.  
189 The maximum decibel level for a motor vehicle shall not exceed the  
190 maximum decibel level permitted pursuant to section 14-80a of the  
191 general statutes, as amended by this act, and any regulation adopted  
192 thereunder. The different methodologies used to conduct such decibel  
193 level inspections shall reflect industry standards and advancements in  
194 technology. Not later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit  
195 a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
196 having cognizance of matters relating to transportation, appropriations  
197 and the budgets of state agencies and finance, revenue and bonding, in  
198 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
199 concerning the implementation of the pilot program, the results of the  
200 different methodologies used to conduct such decibel level inspections  
201 and recommendations for a state-wide decibel level testing program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	PA 22-44, Sec. 19
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	14-80a(c)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	7-152c(c)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(c)(3), "practicable" was changed to "feasible" for internal consistency; and in Section 1(c)(9), "and, therefore, similar" was changed to ". Similar" for conciseness.

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*