

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-454

AN ACT CONCERNING PHOTO NOISE VIOLATION MONITORING DEVICES.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5424

File Copy No.: 552

Senate Calendar No.: 326

OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact.

The amendment allows municipalities to establish an ordinance to authorize the use of noise cameras to determine violations for exceeding 80 decibels and requires that violations of the ordinance result in fines for second and subsequent violations. This results in a potential cost and potential revenue gain to municipalities beginning in FY 25.

Any fiscal impact to municipalities is dependent on if they establish this ordinance. There is a potential cost to municipalities associated with the purchase and use of noise cameras or for entering into an agreement with a vendor that provides noise camera services. There is also a potential cost to municipalities for (1) a hearing procedure that is required for citations issued and (2) sending citations by first class mail as required in the amendment.

There is also a potential revenue gain associated with a \$100 fine for a second violation, a \$250 fine for subsequent violations, and a \$15 processing fee. The amendment allows municipalities to use any revenue from these fines to pay for costs associated with the use of noise cameras. This may partially offset any cost to municipalities.

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Reviewer: RW

5/5/24
(FN)

The amendment makes presenting proof of passing a noise inspection at a DMV designated facility an available defense to alleged violations. It results in a potential cost to DMV to the extent it increases the number of required noise level inspections. The potential cost depends on the magnitude of the increase and operational decisions to be made by DMV if increased capacity is required. If the increase is minimal then no additional costs are expected.

Currently, these tests are conducted on a limited basis at a single location (less than 50 per year conducted at the Wethersfield branch). DMV is also undertaking a pilot program to establish noise level tests at five emissions stations across the state, which is expected to be completed by October 2024. The results of this pilot will inform operational decisions and potential costs for additional noise inspections, as may be necessitated by the amendment.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.