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HOUSE BILL NO. 884  
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the House Committee on Transportation  
on \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Watts)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-1049.1, relating to vehicle exhaust systems; inspection and administrative fee.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-1049.1 as follows:**

**§ 46.2-1049.1. Excessive noise; inspection and administrative fee.**

A. The provisions of this section shall only apply in Planning District 8.

B. No person shall operate a passenger car and no owner of a passenger car shall permit or allow the operation of any such passenger car that has an exhaust system that emits noise in excess of 95 decibels when measured in accordance with the SAE International Standard Method J1492 as adopted in October 2021 or any subsequent version on a highway; on any driveway or premises of a church, school, recreational facility, or business; on any governmental property open to the public; on the premises of any industrial establishment providing parking space for customers, patrons, or employees; or on any highway under construction or not yet open to the public.

C. If a law-enforcement officer, based on his training and judgment, determines the noise emitted by a passenger car's exhaust system to be in excess of the decibel limit permitted by this section, he may stop such vehicle and issue a notice of an administrative fee of \$250 to be paid to the Department at the time of such vehicle's next registration renewal. Such assessment of the administrative fee may be rebutted by the vehicle being presented within 30 days for an inspection of exhaust system noise conducted by the Department of Environmental Quality to determine if the vehicle exhaust system emits noise in excess of the decibel limit permitted by this section. If the vehicle is found to emit exhaust system noise in excess of the permitted decibel limit permitted by this section, such vehicle may be resubmitted for inspection

27 within 30 days of the date of the failed inspection. If the vehicle is found to emit exhaust system noise in  
28 excess of the permitted decibel limit permitted by this section at the second inspection, or if the vehicle is  
29 not resubmitted for inspection within the 30 days following a failed first inspection, the administrative fee  
30 will be assessed and collected at the time of vehicle registration renewal. If during an inspection conducted  
31 by the Department of Environmental Quality such vehicle is found to emit exhaust system noise within  
32 the allowed limit permitted by this section, the administrative fee shall be waived.

33 D. The Department of Environmental Quality may enter into a contract or agreement with any  
34 agency or private vendor to (i) conduct such exhaust system noise inspections at existing emissions  
35 inspection stations, (ii) conduct inspections of such emissions inspection stations and their operations for  
36 purposes of this section, (iii) report any relevant information related to such exhaust system noise  
37 inspections to the Department, (iv) designate locations of such emissions inspection stations at which such  
38 exhaust system noise inspections shall be conducted, (v) provide the equipment necessary for such exhaust  
39 system noise inspections to each such emissions inspection station, (vi) certify the calibration of any such  
40 equipment, and (vii) provide for the inspection of such emissions inspection stations and their operations.

41 E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a passenger car with an original equipment  
42 manufacturer exhaust system or an exhaust system of a similar type installed as standard equipment by  
43 the vehicle manufacturer.

44 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2025, so long as the**  
45 **Department of Environmental Quality receives an appropriation or such funding necessary to**  
46 **supply the necessary equipment to emissions inspection stations, as required by § 46.2-1049.1 of the**  
47 **Code of Virginia, as created by this act, as determined by the Department of Environmental Quality,**  
48 **by such effective date. The Department of Environmental Quality shall certify in writing to the**  
49 **Virginia Code Commission that such contingency has been met.**

50 **3. That the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall develop and implement training for law-**  
51 **enforcement officers to recognize vehicles emitting exhaust system noise in excess of the limits**  
52 **permitted by statute and create and implement the use of a notice of the administrative fee required**  
53 **by § 46.2-1049.1 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**

54 **4. That the Department of Environmental Quality shall develop a program for inspecting vehicle**  
55 **exhaust system noise consistent with the provisions of § 46.2-1049.1 of the Code of Virginia, as**  
56 **created by this act.**

57 **5. That the Department of Motor Vehicles shall implement any administrative processes necessary**  
58 **to fulfill the requirements of the provisions of this act.**

59 **6. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2027.**

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