

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-454

AN ACT CONCERNING PHOTO NOISE VIOLATION MONITORING DEVICES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
All Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
All Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill results in (1) a potential cost to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and municipalities and (2) a potential revenue gain to municipalities beginning in FY 25 associated with the use of noise violation monitoring devices described below.

The bill allows municipalities to establish an ordinance to authorize the use of noise cameras to determine violations for exceeding the state-established vehicle noise limits 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.

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Reviewer: RW

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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 bill.

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 bill 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.

The bill 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 bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of fines and noise inspections.