

PROPOSED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2024, Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 67-24

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien

By the County Council, July 15, 2024

Introduced and first read on July 15, 2024
Public Hearing set for September 16, 2024
Bill Expires on October 18, 2024

By Order: Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Crimes, Civil Offenses, and Fines – Crimes – Sale and Use
2 of Leaf Blowers or Vacuums

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4 FOR the purpose of adding definitions of “dBA” and “leaf blower or vacuum”; prohibiting
5 the sale and use of a combustion engine powered leaf blower or vacuum; establishing
6 sanctions for violations; and generally relating to crimes, civil offenses, and fines.

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8 BY repealing and reenacting: § 9-1-707(a) through (c)
9 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

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11 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*
12 That §§ 9-1-707 (a) through (c), respectively, of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as
13 amended) is hereby repealed and reenacted.

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15 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County
16 Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

ARTICLE 9. CRIMES, CIVIL OFFENSES, AND FINES

TITLE 1. CRIMES

§ 9-1-707. Noise disturbances.

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24 (a) **Definitions.** In this section, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
25 INDICATED[[,]].

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.

1 (1) “DBA” MEANS DECIBELS OF SOUND, AS DETERMINED BY THE A-WEIGHTING
2 NETWORK OF A SOUND LEVEL METER OR BY CALCULATION FROM OCTAVE BAND OR ONE-
3 THIRD OCTAVE BAND DATA.

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5 (2) “LEAF BLOWER OR VACUUM” MEANS ANY PORTABLE DEVICE DESIGNED OR
6 INTENDED TO BLOW, VACUUM, OR MOVE LEAVES OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF DEBRIS OR
7 MATERIAL BY GENERATING A CONCENTRATED STREAM OF AIR.

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9 (3) “[residential]] RESIDENTIAL district” means those districts identified as
10 residential in § 18-2-105 of this Code.

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12 (b) **Scope.** [[This section does]] SUBSECTIONS (C)(1)(I) AND (C)(2) DO not apply to the
13 use or operation of a device:

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15 (1) in the performance of a governmental function by an agency or instrumentality
16 of federal, State, County, or municipal government;

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18 (2) in the performance of a public service function by a public service company as
19 defined in § 1-101 of the Public Utilities Article of the State Code;

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21 (3) under a valid federal, State, County, or municipal license or permit;

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23 (4) in the activities of an educational institution or a bona fide nonprofit charitable
24 or philanthropic organization or civic association; or

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26 (5) in farming activities.

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28 (c) **Prohibitions.** A person may not:

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30 (1) at any time:

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32 (I) use, operate, or permit the use or operation of a radio or other music
33 producing device, a television, an amplified musical instrument, or any other audio
34 producing device at an unreasonably loud volume that can be heard in a residential district;
35 or

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37 (II) USE, OPERATE, SELL, OR PERMIT THE USE, OPERATION OR SALE OF A LEAF
38 BLOWER OR VACUUM THAT HAS AN AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL EXCEEDING 70 DBA AT A
39 DISTANCE OF 50 FEET; OR

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41 (2) between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., use, operate, or permit the use
42 or operation of a musical instrument or a machine, tool, or similar device at an
43 unreasonably loud volume that can be heard in a residential district.

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45 SECTION 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect
46 December 30, 2024.