



## COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

### **Legislative Summary**

**To:** Members, Anne Arundel County Council

**From:** Meredith L. Beach, Legislative Counsel to the County Council

**Date:** July 10, 2024

**Subject:** Bill No. 67-24 – Crimes, Civil Offenses, and Fines – Crimes – Sale and Use of Leaf Blowers or Vacuums

---

This summary was prepared for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Bill is to prohibit the use and sale of leaf blowers or vacuums with a decibel of sound (dBA) greater than 70 dBA at a distance of 50 feet away. A violation of this section of the Code is subject to a civil fine for a Class E civil offense, and a police officer may issue a citation. (§9-1-707(e)). A Class E civil offense fine is \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation, and \$500 for the third and every subsequent violation. (§9-2-101(f)(5)). The responding police officer is not required to issue a warning before charging a violation. (Id.). There is a rebuttable presumption that if a device generating the sound can be heard from 50 feet away the device constitutes a violation. (§9-1-707(d)).

### **Bill No. 67-24**

Section 9-1-707(a) is amended to add definitions for “dBA” and “leaf blower or vacuum”.

Section 9-1-707(b) is amended to clarify that the prohibitions established in §9-1-707(c) apply in certain circumstances. The prohibition on the use or operation of an audio device in a residential district does not include such audio devices when used by a governmental entity, a public service company, under a government permit, by an educational, nonprofit, philanthropic, or civic association, or during farming activities. The use of any unreasonably loud audio devices that can be heard in residential districts is further prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The entities listed above are prohibited from using, operating, selling or the permitting the use or operation of leaf blowers or vacuums with a dBA of 70 at a distance of 50 feet.

**Note: This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.**