

power, hybrid vehicles cannot be heard by blind people and others and are, therefore, extremely dangerous when driving on the street, emerging from driveways, moving through parking lots, and in other situations where pedestrians and vehicles come in close proximity to one another; and

WHEREAS, Failure of this State to take immediate action to ensure that blind pedestrians can hear vehicles in all phases of operation is likely to lead to pedestrian injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Injuries and fatalities may be prevented through vehicle designs that take into account the multisensory nature of traffic detection and a requirement that vehicles emit a minimum level of sound in order to alert all pedestrians, and especially blind pedestrians, to their presence; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Maryland Quiet Vehicles and Pedestrian Safety Task Force.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members, appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation:

(1) one representative from the Department of Transportation;

(2) one representative from the Department of the Environment;

(3) two or three individuals who:

(i) represent the organized blind community in this State;

(ii) are legally blind; and

(iii) have experience or expertise in training blind people to travel safely and independently;

(4) two or three individuals representing pedestrian organizations in this State; and

(5) one representative of an organization representing the interests of automobile manufacturers.

(c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its membership.