A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, as part of the 2 increased development of Hawaii's towns and cities, there has been an increase in noise pollution. One of the contributors to 3 noise pollution is the loud beeping sound emitted by large 4 vehicles when they are reversing. State law requires certain 5 6 large vehicles to be equipped with an audible reverse warning system to warn pedestrians and others that the vehicle is about 7 to reverse. However, when these vehicles operate late at night 8 or near hospitals or hotels, the loud noise is disruptive, 9 10 irritating, and inevitably raises complaints. Although the department of health has rules to control vehicular noise, these 11 12 rules exempt audible reverse warning systems.
- The purpose of this Act is to provide an option to turn off the audible reverse warning system for noise control purposes between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., provided the vehicle, when reversing, is guided by a person other than the driver.

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Rear

1 SECTION 2. Section 291-35.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 2 amended to read as follows:

"§291-35.1 Regulation of bumper height[-]; reverse warning 3

systems. (a) Maximum bumper heights of motor vehicles shall be

determined by the weight category of gross vehicle weight rating 5

(GVWR) as measured from a level surface to the highest point on 6

Front

7 the bottom of the bumper. Maximum heights are as follows:

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating

9	Passenger vehicles 22	2 inches	22 inches
10	4,500 lbs. and under 29	9 inches	29 inches
11	4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs.	3 inches	33 inches
12	7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs.	inches	35 inches
13	For any vehicle with bumpers or attaching components which		
14	have been modified or altered from the original manufacturer's		
15	design to conform with the maximum bumper height requirements of		
16	this section, the bumper height shall be measured from a level		
17	surface to the bottom of the bumper. The vehicle frame rail,		
18	measured from a level surface to the bottom of the vehicle frame		
19	rail, shall not exceed the attached bumper height. The maximum		
20	distance between vehicle body to vehicle frame rail shall not		
21	exceed three inches. The distance between the vehicle body to		
22	vehicle frame rail shall be measured from the vehicle body mount		

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    seat to the vehicle frame rail mount seat. "Bumper", for
    purposes of this section means a horizontal load bearing
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    protective system installed on a motor vehicle which is
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    constructed of sturdy materials that will not shatter or split
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    upon moderate impact and provides adequate protection against
    damages to the front and rear external lighting and reflective
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    devices, hood, trunk, doors, painted surfaces, cooling system,
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    exhaust system, and other components during a low speed impact.
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         (b) Any vehicle that exceeds the Vehicle Equipment Safety
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    Commission - Regulation 12 recommended bumper height, based on
    the gross vehicle weight rating, shall be equipped with an
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    audible reverse warning system[-]; provided that an audible
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    reverse warning system may be manually turned off when the
    vehicle is reversing (for noise control purposes) between the
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    hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., if the vehicle's driver is
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    assisted by another person, who is positioned behind the vehicle
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    with a clear view of the vehicle's rearward path and the
    vehicle's driver. Any switch permitting the audible reverse
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    warning system to be manually disengaged shall automatically
    turn itself off after a fixed period of time as specified by
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    rule and automatically re-engage the audible reverse warning
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    system. The audible reverse warning system is not required on
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- 1 any open cab vehicle with a distance of less than four feet from
- 2 the rear of the driver's seating position to the rear most part
- 3 of the vehicle body."
- 4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
- 6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

Report Title:

Motor Vehicles; Reverse Warning Systems

Description:

Permits motor vehicle backup warning beepers to be disabled between $10:00~\rm p.m.$ and $6:00~\rm a.m.$ if the vehicle's driver is assisted by another person while reversing. (SD1)