

SENATE, No. 4638

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL
District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits modification of mufflers and exhaust systems to produce audible sounds; increases penalties for violations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/8/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicle muffler and exhaust systems and
2 amending R.S.39:3-69 and R.S.39:3-70.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. R.S.39:3-69 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:3-69. a. Every motor vehicle except a motor-drawn vehicle
9 when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in
10 good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under
11 normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet, but no
12 horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or
13 harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when
14 reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, give audible warning
15 with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a
16 highway.

17 b. No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use
18 upon a vehicle any siren, whistle or bell except as otherwise
19 permitted in this section. It is permissible but not required that any
20 vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so
21 arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning
22 signal.

23 Any emergency vehicle authorized by the commission may be
24 equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound
25 audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than
26 500 feet and of a type approved by the commission, but such siren,
27 whistle or bell shall not be used except when such vehicle is
28 operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate
29 pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which said
30 latter events the driver of such vehicle shall sound said siren,
31 whistle or bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers
32 of the approach thereof.

33 c. No person shall install or **use on** modify the exhaust
34 system of any motor vehicle **any device which emits an** in a
35 manner which amplifies or increases the audible sound **unless**
36 **authorized to do so by the commission** emitted by the motor or
37 exhaust system of such vehicle above that emitted by the motor or
38 exhaust system originally installed on the vehicle.

39 The penalty for the violation of this subsection shall be
40 consistent with the penalty for violating the provisions of
41 subsection b. of R.S.39:3-70.

42 d. No bicycle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use
43 upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.

44 e. The commission is hereby authorized in its discretion to
45 promulgate standards concerning the audibility of audible warning
46 devices.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

