
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7057

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF SOUND BARRIERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), by October 1, 2025, to (1) develop, and later revise as needed, a funding schedule for constructing noise barriers for Type II projects (i.e. retrofit projects) and (2) fund construction according to this schedule. The funding schedule must be based on the department's existing priority list for these noise barriers. The bill also requires DOT to publish the schedule and status of each construction project on its website.

A "Type II project" is generally a federal or federal-aid highway project for noise abatement on an existing highway (see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Noise Barriers

State and federal regulation and policy separate noise barriers into two types, based on whether they are associated with an existing or new source of noise. Under federal regulations, noise barriers must mitigate increased traffic noise exceeding allowable levels resulting from new highway or bridge construction or reconstruction (i.e. Type I projects). The federal government generally pays most of the noise barrier costs as part of the approved project. Federal regulations allow federal funds to be used for retrofitting an area with noise barriers (i.e. Type II projects) if a state adopts a Type II program that includes a federally approved priority ranking system (23 C.F.R. § 772.7).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/12/2025)