

**AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT
OFFERED BY MR. TOWNS AND MR. STEARNS**

At the end of title I, insert the following:

1 SEC. 109. MINIMUM SOUND REQUIREMENT.

2 (a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months fol-
3 lowing the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary
4 shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding under section 30111
5 of title 49, United States Code, to promulgate a motor
6 vehicle safety standard to establish performance require-
7 ments for an alert sound that allows blind and other pe-
8 destrians to reasonably detect a nearby electric or hybrid
9 vehicle operating below the cross-over speed, if any. Such
10 standard—

11 (1) shall require new electric or hybrid vehicles
12 to provide an alert sound conforming to the require-
13 ments of the motor vehicle safety standard estab-
14 lished under this subsection;

15 (2) shall not require either driver or pedestrian
16 activation of the alert sound;

17 (3) shall allow the pedestrian to reasonably de-
18 tect a nearby electric or hybrid vehicle in critical op-
19 erating scenarios, including but not limited to con-
20 stant speed, accelerating, and decelerating;



1 (4) shall allow manufacturers to provide each
2 vehicle with 1 or more alert sounds that comply with
3 the motor vehicle safety standard at the time of
4 manufacture; and

5 (5) shall require manufacturers to provide,
6 within reasonable manufacturing tolerances, the
7 same alert sound or set of alert sounds for all vehi-
8 cles of the same make and model and shall prohibit
9 manufacturers from providing any mechanism for
10 anyone other than the manufacturer or the dealer to
11 disable, alter, replace, or modify the alert sound or
12 set of alert sounds, except that the manufacturer or
13 dealer may alter, replace, or modify the alert sound
14 or set of alert sounds in order to remedy a defect
15 or non-compliance with the motor vehicle safety
16 standard.

17 (b) CONSIDERATION.—When conducting the required
18 rulemaking, the Secretary shall—

19 (1) determine the minimum level of an alert
20 sound emitted from a motor vehicle that is necessary
21 to provide blind and other pedestrians with the in-
22 formation needed to reasonably detect a nearby elec-
23 tric or hybrid vehicle operating at or below the
24 cross-over speed, if any;



1 (2) determine the performance requirements for
2 an alert sound that is recognizable to a pedestrian
3 as a motor vehicle in operation; and

4 (3) consider the overall noise impact to streets
5 and communities.

6 (c) PHASE-IN REQUIRED.—The motor vehicle safety
7 standard prescribed pursuant to subsection (a) shall es-
8 tablish a phase-in period for compliance, as determined
9 by the Secretary, and shall require full compliance with
10 the required motor vehicle safety standard for motor vehi-
11 cles manufactured on or after September 1 of the calendar
12 year that begins 3 years after the date on which the final
13 rule is issued.

14 (d) CONSULTATION.—When conducting the required
15 study and rulemaking, the Secretary shall consult with—

16 (1) the Environmental Protection Agency to as-
17 sure that the motor vehicle safety standard is con-
18 sistent with existing noise requirements overseen by
19 the Agency;

20 (2) consumer groups representing individuals
21 who are blind;

22 (3) automobile manufacturers and professional
23 organizations representing them; and

24 (4) technical standardization organizations re-
25 sponsible for measurement methods such as the So-



1 ciety of Automotive Engineers, the International Or-
2 ganization for Standardization, and the United Na-
3 tions Economic Commission for Europe, World
4 Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations.

5 (e) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall issue a final
6 rule under subsection (a) not later than 36 months after
7 the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (f) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 4 years
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
10 complete a study and report to Congress as to whether
11 there exists a safety need to apply the motor vehicle safety
12 standard required by subsection (a) to conventional motor
13 vehicles. In the event that the Secretary determines there
14 exists a safety need, the Secretary shall initiate rule-
15 making under section 30111 of title 49, United States
16 Code to extend the standard to conventional motor vehi-
17 cles.

18 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of the motor vehicle
19 safety standard required under this section—

20 (1) the term “alert sound” means a vehicle-
21 emitted sound that enables pedestrians to discern ve-
22 hicle presence, direction, location, and operation;

23 (2) the term “cross-over speed” means the
24 speed at which tire noise, wind resistance, or other



1 factors eliminate the need for a separate alert sound,
2 as determined by the Secretary;

3 (3) the term “conventional motor vehicle”
4 means a motor vehicle powered by a gasoline, diesel,
5 or alternative fueled internal combustion engine as
6 its sole means of propulsion;

7 (4) the term “electric vehicle” means a motor
8 vehicle with an electric motor as its sole means of
9 propulsion; and

10 (5) the term “hybrid vehicle” means a motor
11 vehicle which has more than one means of propul-
12 sion.

In the table of contents in section 1(b), insert after
the items relating to section 108 the following:

Sec. 109. Minimum sound requirement



