

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 33.1-223.2:21 of the Code of Virginia, relating to highway noise*  
3 *abatement practices, technologies, and pavement standards.*

4 [H 2001]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 33.1-223.2:21 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 33.1-223.2:21. Noise abatement practices and technologies.

9 A. Whenever the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the Department plan for or undertake any  
10 highway construction or improvement project and such project includes or may include the requirement  
11 for the mitigation of traffic noise impacts, consideration should be given to the use of noise reducing  
12 design and low noise pavement materials and techniques in lieu of construction of noise walls or sound  
13 barriers. Landscaping in such a design would be utilized to act as a visual screen if visual screening is  
14 required.

15 B. The Department shall expedite the development of quiet pavement technology such that applicable  
16 contract solicitations for paving shall include specifications for quiet pavement in any case in which  
17 sound mitigation is a consideration. To that end, the Department shall construct demonstration projects  
18 sufficient in number and scope to assess applicable technologies. The assessment shall include  
19 evaluation of the functionality and public safety of these technologies in Virginia's climate and shall be  
20 evaluated over two full winters. The Department shall provide an interim report to the Governor and the  
21 General Assembly by June 30, 2012, and a final report by June 30, 2013. The report shall include  
22 results of demonstration projects in Virginia, results of the use of quiet pavement in other states, a plan  
23 for routine implementation of quiet pavement, and any safety, cost, or performance issues that have been  
24 identified by the demonstration projects.

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