

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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

[H 2025]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 33.1-223.2:21 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

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

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