

# Senate Transportation Committee

*Vivian Hall 271-3091*

**SB 152-FN**, authorizing the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects.

**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2025

**Time Opened:** 2:17 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 2:25 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Ricciardi, McConkey, Ward, Fenton and Prentiss

**Bill Analysis:** This bill authorizes the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects, provided that there are sufficient turnpike toll credits for the state match for certain federal apportionment totals.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Gray

Sen. Gannon

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**Who supports the bill:** Senators Keith Murphy and James Grey; Daniel Richardson

**Who opposes the bill:** Simon Berrio

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Danielle Chandonnet, Director of Finance, Department of Transportation.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Fenton:**

- This bill is intended to authorize the sale of toll credits to construct noise barriers.
- Senator Fenton described this as a fiscally responsible solution to a long-standing issue.

**Senator Murphy:**

- Senator Murphy expressed concerns about the impact of the turnpike widening. He highlighted a constituent's complaint about the loss of privacy and noise due to tree removal in his neighborhood.
- He emphasized the need for noise barriers, noting that while the Department of Transportation's cost analysis deemed them too expensive, they are effective and necessary.
- Senator Ward asked how many homes there need to be for noise barriers to be built. He indicated 14 homes per square mile.

**Neutral Information Presented:**

**Danielle Chandonnet, Director of Finance, Department of Transportation**

- Director Chandonnet raised concerns about the challenges involved in buying and selling these credits, including the need to sell a certain volume to secure funding.
- Senator Fenton noted the methodology lacks a framework for the sale of turnpike credits, confirming that it is currently on hold. Director Chandonnet concurred if the bill passed, the sale would remain on hold.

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 4, 2025