

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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S E N A T E

S. No. 378

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 96 penalizes the unlawful use of sirens, blinkers, domelights and other similar emergency devices, which may be used only by ambulances, policemen, firemen, personnel of the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board as well as by members of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Notwithstanding said law, bureaucrats and their families and ordinary citizens have been known to use these emergency devices to ease their way through traffic jams. The use of these devices by unauthorized personnel is made easier by the fact that they can be purchased over the counter at numerous retail outlets.

This disregard and weak enforcement of the law erodes the effectiveness of emergency devices when used by authorized personnel for real emergency situations.

This bill seeks to prohibit the sale of motor vehicle sirens, blinkers, domelights and other similar emergency devices to unauthorized persons.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE SALE OF AND/OR USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE SIRENS,
BLINKERS, DOMELIGHT AND OTHER SIMILAR EMERGENCY DEVICES,
EXCEPT AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. **Prohibition on the Sale of Motor Vehicle Sirens,
Blinkers, Domelight and Other Similar Emergency Devices.** – Any provision
of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the act of selling and using motor vehicle
sirens, blinkers, domelights and other similar gadgets that produce exceptionally
loud or startling sounds, including domelights, blinkers, and other similar
signalling or flashing devices is hereby declared unlawful: Provided, That the
granting of permit to sell or use such devices to unauthorized personnel shall
likewise be unlawful.

SEC. 2. **Penalties.** – Any person found guilty of violation of the
preceding section shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of a minimum of six (6)
months and one (1) day to a maximum of one (1) year or a fine of not less than
Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00) and not more than a Hundred
Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the Court: Provided,
That in case the offender is a juridical person, the President, General Manager or
any responsible chief executive officer/s shall be liable.

1 Subsequent violations of this Act would merit the penalty of imprisonment
2 in the above mentioned paragraph or a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos
3 (P50,000.00) or both: Provided, however, That a violation of this Act committed in
4 pursuance of disregarding traffic rules and regulations would subject the offender,
5 to the same penalty of imprisonment prescribed in this Act or a fine of Seventy
6 Five Thousand Pesos (P75,000.00) or both.

7 SEC. 3. **Exceptions.** – This prohibition shall not cover the sale of the
8 above mentioned devices to motor vehicles designated for official use by the
9 Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Land
10 Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board, Police Departments, Fire
11 Departments, ambulance of hospitals: Provided, That an authority to purchase
12 any of the devices mentioned in Section 1 of this Act must be accomplished and
13 issued by the head of the agency excepted and be presented to the vendor of
14 said device. Provided, further, That the vendee must keep a copy of such
15 authority on file for twenty (20) years: Provided, finally That a copy of such
16 authority must be presented to any traffic enforcers upon demand of the latter.

17 SEC. 4. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
18 regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
19 deemed, modified, revoked or repealed accordingly

20 SEC. 5 **Separability Clause.** – If any section or provision of this Act
21 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not
22 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

23 SEC. 6. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
24 after its publication in two (2) leading newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,