

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



'16 JAN 25 P5:12

SENATE
S. No. 3114

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
REGULATING THE DECIBEL EMISSION OF TOYS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sustained sounds exceeding 100 decibels (dB) can cause permanent hearing damage in humans. In a testing performed by the Sight and Wearing Association and researchers at the University of Minnesota, seven of fourteen loud toys tested topped 100 dB. A child's mini electric guitar produced noises over 117 dB, louder than a typical chainsaw. This level of sound is unacceptable for children's toys.

In addition to the obvious unwanted effect of hearing loss, noise can cause other health issues as well. It increases blood pressure, has negative cardiovascular effects such as changing the way the heart beats, increases breathing rate, disturbs digestion, can cause an upset stomach or ulcer, can negatively impact a developing fetus, perhaps contributing to premature birth, and makes it difficult to sleep, even after the noise stops. These are preventable health risks which this legislation seeks to address.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
7P

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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AN ACT
REGULATING THE DECIBEL EMISSION OF TOYS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Limit on Decibel Level of Toys.* – When used in this Act, the term
2 “toy” shall mean all products designed or intended by the manufacturer to be used by
3 children when they play.

4 SECTION 2. *Prohibition.* – No person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity
5 which manufactures or assembles toys shall manufacture, assemble, sell, offer to sell, or
6 distribute a toy that makes or emits noise exceeding one hundred decibels measured at the
7 distance that the product ordinarily would be from the ear of the child using it.

8 SECTION 3. *Agencies Involved.* – The Department of Trade and Industry, in
9 consultation with the Department of Health, shall promulgate rules and regulations to
10 implement this Act. Such rules and regulations shall include testing methods for
11 manufacturers to use in ensuring that their products meet the requirements of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. *Penalty.* – Any violation of Section 2 of this Act shall be punishable
13 by a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for the first offense, One Hundred
14 Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for the second offense, and closure of the business
15 establishment thereafter.

1 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
3 provisions hereof.

4 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
5 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
6 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
8 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/ml1Dec2015