FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC

OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

SENATE

S. No. 1533

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 15 provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Noise pollution includes any displeasing man or machine-made sound that disrupts the activity or balance of human or animal life. The World Health Organization (WHO) found that people die prematurely from heart disease triggered by long-term exposure to excessive noise. Coronary heart disease caused 101,000 deaths in the United Kingdom in 2006, and the study suggests that 3,030 of these are caused by chronic noise exposure. Deepak Prasher, a professor of audiology at the University College London, told the New Scientist magazine that the new data provide the link showing there are earlier deaths because of noise. The WHO's working group on the Noise Environmental Burden on Disease began work on the health effects of noise in Europe in 2003.

In addition to the heart disease link, it found that 2% of Europeans suffer severely disturbed sleep because of noise pollution and 15% can suffer severe annoyance. Chronic exposure to loud noise causes 3% of tinnitus cases, in which people constantly hear a ringing in their ears. Research published in recent years showed that noise can increase the amounts of stress hormones such as adrenaline, cortisol and noradrenalin in the body. This can increase even during sleep. The longer these hormones stay in circulation around the bloodstream, the more probable they are to cause life-threatening physiological problems. High levels of stress can contribute to heart failure, high blood pressure, strokes, and immune problems.

The WHO came to its figures by comparing households with abnormally high exposure to noise with those in quieter homes. It also studied cases of people with problems such as coronary heart disease and tried to work out if high noise levels had been a factor in acquiring the problem. This data was then joined with maps indicating the noisiest cities in Europe. Noise cannot directly kill, but it may add to a person's stress. There are cases when stressful events can trigger a heart attack in someone with underlying heart disease. Stressed people are more likely to eat unhealthily, exercise less and smoke more, and these can increase the risk of developing heart disease in the first place. A major cause of noise levels is the use of powered equipment in residential areas where homes and residents are not equipped to deal with the increased noise levels particularly at nighttime.

This bill seeks to address the problem of noise pollution in residential areas by regulating the use of powered equipment. ¹

MIRIAM DEFANSOR SANTIAGO

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

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	First Regular Session) 10 JL 19 AIO :55 SENATE S. No. 1533
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1 2 3	AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF POWERED EQUIPMENT IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS
4 5	Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:
6	SECTION 1. Short Title This Act shall be known as the "Powered Equipment Noise
7	Regulation Act."
8	SECTION 2. Regulation of the use of powered equipment intended for repetitive use
9	Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day, no person shall operate any
10	lawn mower, backpack blower, lawn edger, riding tractor, or any other machinery, equipment, or
11	other mechanical or electrical device, or any hand tool which creates a loud, raucous or
12	impulsive sound, within any residential zone or within 500 feet of a residence.
13	SECTION 3. <i>Penalties.</i> – Any person found to violate this Act shall be fined P5,000.00.
14	SECTION 4. Repealing Clause Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
15	order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
16	with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
17	SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18	publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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