

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
S. No. 1542

RECEIVED BY:

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 or Sound Pollution refers to any exposure of people or animals to sound levels that are annoying, stressful, or damaging to a person's ears. Although loud and frightening sounds are part of nature, only in recent decades has much of the world become urban, industrial, and chronically noisy.

Sound intensity is measured in units called decibels. In the wilderness, an ordinary sound level would be 35 decibels. Speech runs 65 to 70 decibels; heavy traffic generates 90 decibels. By 140 decibels, sound gets intolerable and painful to the human ear, but the harmful effects, including loss of hearing, set in at much lower levels.

Most noise pollution comes from machines, especially trucks, automobiles, and aircraft. Construction equipment, farm machines, and the din of machinery inside factories can be dangerously loud. Some home appliances, shop tools, lawnmowers, and leaf blowers can also be noisy, as are guns, firecrackers, and some toys. Even music, when played at very high volumes, particularly through personal headphones, is as damaging to the ears as a roaring chain saw.

The most significant health problem caused by noise pollution is hearing loss. Any noise appreciably louder than talking can damage the delicate hair cells in the cochlea, the structure in the inner ear that converts sound waves into auditory nerve signals. The initial damage to the cochlea may be temporary, but with repeated exposure, the damage becomes permanent. Loud

noise deafens quickly—extremely loud sounds, such as gunshots at close range, can cause immediate hearing loss. But even sound levels of only 85 decibels will cause some hearing loss after prolonged exposure. Damage to the ear can also cause tinnitus. Even at levels below those that cause hearing loss, noise pollution produces problems. Noise causes difficulty in conversations, it interferes with sleep and negatively impacts certain kinds of work. As a source of stress, it can promote high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems, as well as nervous disorders.

This bill seeks to address the problem of noise pollution in residential areas by regulating the repairs of vehicles in residential areas.

cc. Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

1 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3 Approved,