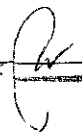


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SECRET
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 P5:33

SENATE
S. No. 1624

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.

Indoor firing ranges are popular among law enforcement and recreational shooters because they offer protection from inclement weather conditions and can be operated around the clock under controlled environmental conditions. However, many firing range facilities lack environmental and occupational controls to protect the health of shooters and range personnel from effects of airborne lead, noise, and other potential exposures.

Exposure to lead dust and fumes at the firing range may harm the health of shooters, instructors and maintenance staff. Firing ranges have been recognized as potential sources of lead exposure since the 1970's. Lead-containing dust is produced by the combustion of lead-containing primers, the friction of bullets against the gun barrel, and the fragmentation as bullets strike the backstop. Lead dust inhaled into the lungs is highly bioavailable, with an absorption rate near one hundred percent. One can breathe in airborne lead at the range and also carry home lead dust that settles on the body, clothes, shoes or hair. Lead that enters the body will be stored in the blood, organs or bones and can affect the brain and nervous system, the digestive system, the reproductive system, the kidneys and the ability to make blood. Noise is another hazard in firing ranges. Too much noise exposure may cause a temporary change in hearing when the ears may feel stuffed up or a temporary ringing in the ears also called tinnitus. These short-term problems usually go away within a few minutes or hours after leaving the noise. However, repeated exposures to loud noise can lead to permanent, incurable hearing loss or tinnitus.

This bill seeks to address the health and safety concerns posed by unregulated activities in firing ranges.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

1 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— The Department shall adopt the
2 Implementing Rules and Regulations for this Act.

3 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – The Department is empowered to establish and assess penalties
4 or fines against an employer for violations of this Act or regulations adopted under this Act. In
5 no circumstance will any penalty or fine exceed P10,000.00.

6 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
8 valid and subsisting.

9 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
10 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
11 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

12 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

14 Approved,