

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

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SENATE  
S. No. 1690

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The noise level in our cities is rapidly increasing. This is due to heavier traffic and more powerful engines. On top of that there is a growing number of vehicles which are much louder due to the fact that their owners install or modify mufflers which can be heard from a kilometer away.

The noise produced by these vehicles not only lowers the quality of life and work of the majority of people but also can result in permanent hearing loss for vehicle operators and people nearby (this includes unborn children, since noise penetrates the womb). At high levels this noise can result even in tissue damage (body parts and organs resonate and tissues can fracture at some low frequencies) leading to serious health problems.

Vehicles with modified mufflers are highly distracting in traffic and can cause accidents since they mask sounds and agitate drivers. Loud sounds can affect hearing, vision, reaction time and judgment of drivers and nearby people increasing dangers significantly for everyone involved.

This Bill seeks to regulate the modification of mufflers to increase noise emitted from a vehicles exhaust system in order to prevent excessive or unusual noise and annoying smoke.<sup>1</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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S. No. 1690

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROHIBITING MODIFICATION OF MUFFLERS TO INCREASE NOISE EMITTED FROM  
3 EXHAUST SYSTEMS.  
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
6 *Congress assembled:*  
7

8 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act may be known as the "*Anti-muffler Modification*  
9 *Act*".  
10

11 SECTION 2. *Muffler Conditions.* -- Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped  
12 with a muffler in good working order, and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual  
13 noise and annoying smoke.  
14

15 The engine and power mechanism of every motor vehicle shall must be so equipped and  
16 adjusted as to prevent the escape of excessive fumes or smoke.  
17

18 SECTION 3. *Prohibitions* - A person may not operate a motor vehicle with an exhaust  
19 system that emits a noise in excess of 95 decibels, or modify the exhaust system of a motor  
20 vehicle in a manner that will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the engine of the motor  
21 vehicle in excess of the noise emitted by the muffler installed on the motor vehicle in the  
22 manufacturer's original design.  
23

24 SECTION. 4. *Penalties.* -- Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act shall  
25 upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not  
26 more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than two (2) months  
27 but not more than one (1) year, or both upon the discretion of the court.  
28

29 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or  
30 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
31 valid and subsisting.  
32

33           SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
34 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent  
35 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

36  
37           SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
38 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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40           Approved.