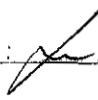


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 MAY -6 P1:46

SENATE  
S. B. No. 3217

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, 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 years has much of the world become urban, industrial, and chronically noisy.

Sound intensity is measured in units called decibels. In nature, an ordinary sound level would be 35 decibels. Speech runs between 65 to 70 decibels while 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. After market engine modifications and horns can cause the sound emanating from vehicle engines to increase several times the ordinary decibel level. 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 operation of motor vehicles in these areas.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO.

9 MAY -6 P1:46

SENATE  
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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 REGULATING THE USE OF MOTOR DRIVEN VEHICLES  
3 IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Motor Vehicle Noise  
7 Regulation Act of 2009.”

8 SECTION 2. *Regulation of the use of motor vehicles.* – It shall be unlawful for any  
9 person to unreasonably operate any motor driven vehicle upon any property within a residential  
10 area or to unreasonably accelerate the engine of any vehicle, or unreasonably sound, blow or  
11 operate the horn or other warning device of such vehicle between the hours of 8:00 p.m. of one  
12 day and 8:00 a.m. of the next day in such manner:

13 (a) As to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of any neighborhood or of any reasonable  
14 person residing in such area;

15 (b) That such activity is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from  
16 the property line of the noise source;

17 (c) As to create any noise which would cause the noise level on the premises of any  
18 occupied residential property, or if a condominium, apartment house or duplex, within any  
19 adjoining unit, to exceed the ambient noise level by more than five (5) decibels.

20 SECTION 3. *Exception.* – This shall not be applicable to any vehicle which is operated  
21 upon any public highway, street or right-of-way or to the operation of any off-highway vehicle,  
22 or to any emergency situation requiring the commission of any of the prohibited activities.

1           SECTION 4. *Penalties.* – Any person found to violate this Act shall be fined P5,000.00.

2           SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
3 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
4 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

5           SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
6 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7           Approved,