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SENATE
S. No. 1353

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 1970s. 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.*

arr.
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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



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SENATE
S. No. 1353

RECEIVED BY: *jsi*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING INDOOR FIRING RANGES

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Indoor Firing Range
4 Regulatory Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the term–

6 (A) “Firing range” is a specialized facility designed for firearms practice; and

7 (B) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

8 SECTION 3. *Requirements for an Indoor Firing Range.* – An indoor firing range must
9 observe the following requirements–

10 (A) Copper jacketed bullets must be used;

11 (B) Wet mopping or vacuuming must be used instead of dry sweeping;

12 (C) Proper design and operation of the firing range must be conducted and it must
13 have a separate ventilation system;

14 (D) The cleaning and maintenance work at the firing range should be completed by
15 individuals trained in lead protection procedures;

16 (E) There must be a written protocol for range maintenance;

17 (F) Minors shall not be allowed in the vicinity of firing ranges;

18 (G) Persons present in the firing range such as, but not limited to, shooters,
19 maintenance staff, and guests must wear ear muffs or ear plugs when present inside the
20 establishment; and

1 (H) Such other requirements as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior and
2 Local Government.

3 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
4 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations
5 for this Act.

6 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* – The Secretary is empowered to establish and assess penalties or
7 fines against owners and operators of indoor firing ranges for violations of this Act or regulations
8 adopted under this Act. In no circumstance will any penalty or fine exceed P10,000.00 for each
9 violation.

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

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

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

Approved,