


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

 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'22 JUL 25 P 1:36

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 842

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**AN ACT  
TO REGULATE NOISE POLLUTION BY CREATING THE NOISE POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD (NPCB), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Noise pollution takes place when there is an excessive amount of noise or an unpleasant sound that tends to disrupt the natural rhythm of life. Noise pollution is an environmental hazard and should not be ignored because of its alarming effects on human health.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one of the various adverse health effects of noise pollution is hearing impairment, which is essential for a person's well-being and safety. WHO added that sudden and unexpected noise had been observed to produce marked changes in the body, such as increased blood pressure, heart rate, and muscular contractions. Other impacts of noise pollution on human health and well-being are annoyance, sleep disturbance, and interference with communication, performance and social behavior effects.<sup>1</sup>

The European Environment Agency (EEA) estimated that environmental noise contributes to 48,000 new cases of ischemic heart disease a year, which results to 12,000

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). (Burden of disease from environmental noise. Retrieved from <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/326424/9789289002295-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>)

premature deaths. In addition, it was estimated that 22 million people are subjected to chronic high annoyance, and 6.5 million people endure chronic high sleep disturbance. Aircraft noise is estimated to suffer 12,500 school children from reading impairment in school.<sup>2</sup>

This bill, therefore, seeks to regulate noise pollution by creating the Noise Pollution Control Board (NPCB), which shall formulate and implement policies and programs on noise pollution control. This measure also prescribes the standards and criteria for determining any violations on noise pollution and its corresponding penalties.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the immediate passage of this measure is sought.

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**

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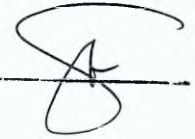
<sup>2</sup> European Union (20 March 2020). Noise pollution is a major problem, both for human health and the environment. Retrieved from <https://www.eea.europa.eu/articles/noise-pollution-is-a-major>

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Noise Pollution Control  
2 and Abatement Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 protect and promote the right to health, safety and general welfare of the people by  
5 providing them an environment free from environmental noise due to economic  
6 development and modern technology that disrupt the natural rhythm of life.

7 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For this Act, the following terms shall mean:

8 (a) *Ambient Noise* — the composite of noise from all sources near and far and in  
9 a given environment, exclusive or occasional and transient intrusive noise  
10 sources and of the particular noise source or sources to be measured;

11 (b) *Decibel (dB)* — a unit of level which denotes the ration between two  
12 quantities which are proportional to power, the number of decibels  
13 corresponding to the ration of two amounts of power is 10 of this ratio;

14 (c) *Environmental Noise* — the sound that is emitted in the course of industrial  
15 production, construction, transportation and social activities that impairs the  
16 living environment of the people;

1 (d) *Motor Vehicle* – includes, but not limited to automobiles, trucks,  
2 motorcycles, motor bikes and go carts;

3 (e) *Noise Emission* – noise discharged from the source to the living environment  
4 of the neighborhood;

5 (f) *Noise Pollution* – an unwanted human-created sound that disrupts the  
6 environment and emitted sporadically or over a period of time; the dominant  
7 form of which are derived from transportation sources, motor vehicles, sound  
8 system, equipment, tools, apparatus, machinery and the like;

9 (g) *Noise-sensitive Structures* – those that require a quiet environment such as  
10 hospitals, schools, government offices, research institutions and residential  
11 buildings;

12 (h) *Octave band noise analyzer* – an instrument for measurement of sound levels  
13 in octave frequency band which satisfies the pertinent requirement for class 2  
14 band analyzers of the American National Standards Specifications;

15 (i) *Person* – an individual, firm, association, co-partnership, joint venture  
16 corporation or any entity, private or public in nature;

17 (j) *Sound amplifying equipment* – any machine or device for amplification of the  
18 human voice, music or any sound including the following: (1) automobile  
19 radios, stereo players, phonographs for television receivers used in or heard  
20 only by the occupants of the vehicle in which the same is installed; (2) radio,  
21 stereo players, phonographs or television receivers used in a house or  
22 apartment within any residential zone or within 500 feet thereof; (3) warning  
23 devices or emergency vehicles; and (4) horns or other warning devices  
24 authorized by law on any vehicle when used for traffic purposes;

25 (k) *Sound Level (Noise Level)* – in decibels (dB), is the sound measured with an  
26 "A" weighing and slow responses by a sound level meter, except an impulsive  
27 or rapidly varying sounds, the fast response shall be used; and

28 (l) *Sound Level Meter* – an instrument including a microphone, an amplifier, an  
29 output meter, and "A" frequency weighing network for the measurement of  
30 sound levels;

31 Sec. 4. *Creation of the Noise Pollution Control Board (NPCB)*. – To implement the  
32 policies and attain the objectives enunciated under this Act, there is hereby created



1 the Noise Pollution Control Board (NPCB), hereinafter referred to as the "Board"  
2 which shall be under the direct supervision of the Environmental Management  
3 Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and  
4 shall have its principal office at Metro Manila.

5       Sec. 5. *Composition of the NPCB.* – The Board shall be composed of two (2)  
6 Assistant Secretaries of the DENR, as Chairman, and Vice-Chairman, respectively,  
7 who shall both be appointed by the President. The following shall be the members of  
8 the Board:

9       (a) one (1) representative from the Department of Health (DOH);

10       (b) one (1) representative from the Department of Transportation (DOTr);

11       (c) one (1) representative from the Department of Public Works and Highways  
12 (DPWH);

13       (d) one (1) representative from the Department of Interior and Local  
14 Government (DILG);

15       (e) one (1) representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);

16       (f) one (1) representative from the Department of Science and Technology  
17 (DOST);

18       (g) one (1) representative from the Department of Labor and Employment  
19 (DOLE); and

20       (h) one (1) representative from the Department of Human Settlements and  
21 Urban Development (DHSUD).

22       Sec. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Board.* – The Board shall have the following  
23 powers and functions:

24       (a) Formulate and implement such policies and programs necessary for the  
25 accomplishment of the purposes of this Act;

26       (b) Set up, revise and/or modify existing noise standards consistent with  
27 economic development and technology;

28       (c) Determine the source, magnitude, extent, severity, causes, effects and other  
29 pertinent information regarding noise pollution and take such measures, using  
30 available methods and technologies, as it shall deem best to prevent or abate  
31 such pollution;

32       (d) Prescribe procedures and criteria for the measurement of sound level;

1 (e) Conduct continuing researches and studies on the effective means for the  
2 control and abatement of noise pollution;

3 (f) Develop comprehensive plans for the abatement of existing noise pollution  
4 and the prevention of new or imminent pollution, the implementation of which  
5 shall be consistent with the national development of the country and indicating  
6 priorities and programs;

7 (g) Adopt, prescribe, promulgate and issue rules and regulations governing  
8 compliance of the provisions of this Act;

9 (h) Develop and disseminate information and educational materials to all  
10 sectors of society concerning public health and other effects of noise and the  
11 most effective means for noise control, through the use of materials for school  
12 curricula, volunteer organizations, radio and television programs, publication  
13 and other social media;

14 (i) Deputize in writing or request assistance from concerned government  
15 agencies or instrumentalities for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this  
16 Act;

17 (j) Issue, renew or deny permits under such conditions as it may determine to  
18 be reasonable for the prevention and abatement of noise pollution;

19 (k) Impose reasonable fees and charges for the issuance or renewal of permits  
20 relative to the compliance of the provisions of this Act; and

21 (l) Exercise and perform such other powers and functions as may be 35  
22 necessary or incidental to the attainment of the purposes and 36 objectives of  
23 this Act.

24 *Sec. 7. Secretariat of the Board.* – The Board shall establish a Secretariat which  
25 shall assist in the implementation of this Act. Its staffing pattern shall be established  
26 in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and in  
27 accordance with the Civil Service rules and regulations.

28 *Sec. 8. General Requirements and Restrictions on Noise Level and Control.* – The  
29 following shall be the general requirements and restrictions on noise level:

30 (a) Any noise level caused by use or operation of radio, television receiver,  
31 musical instrument, phonograph or other similar machine or device which is  
32 audible to the human ear shall be at a distance not to exceed 150 feet from the

1 property line of the noise source, within any residential zone or within 500 feet  
2 thereof;

3 (b) Any noise level caused by such use or operation which exceeds the ambient  
4 noise level on the premises of any other occupied property, or if a  
5 condominium, apartment, house, duplex, or attached business, within an  
6 adjoining unit, shall not exceed five (5) decibels; and

7 (c) The most modern, effective and affordable technology shall be used to  
8 control noise emissions.

9 *Sec. 9. Sound Level Measurement Procedure and Criteria.* – The following are the  
10 sound level measurement procedure and criteria:

11 (a) Any sound level measurement made pursuant to the provisions of this  
12 Act shall be measured with a sound level meter using the "A" weighing and  
13 response; except when impractical, the microphone shall be located 4 to 5  
14 feet above the ground and 10 feet or more from the nearest reflective surface;

15 (b) If the sound alleged to be offending is of a type or character set forth  
16 below:

17 1. Except for noise emanating from any electrical transformer or  
18 gas metering and pressure control equipment existing and  
19 installed prior to the effective date of the ordinance enacting this  
20 chapter, any steady tone with audible fundamental frequency or  
21 overtones have 200Hz.

22 2. Repeated impulsive noise.

23 3. Noise occurring more than 5 but less than 15 minutes in any  
24 period of 60 consecutive minutes between the hours of 7:00 a.m.  
25 and 10:00 p.m. of any day.

26 (c) For those cases where an objectionable noise is clearly audible,  
27 but when the level of ambient noise does not permit direct  
28 quantitative sound level "A" measurements of the objectionable  
29 noise, sound measurements may be performed utilizing an  
30 octave band sound analyzer to determine sound level "A" limits  
31 as indicated in the Table below. This table is used to convert the



1 sound pressure level meter readings in dB for each band to SPL  
 2 in dB (A) for each band.

3 Table: Octave Band Noise Value Corresponding to Sound Level "A" Values  
 Octave Band Sound Pressure Level, dB re 0.0002 dyne/cm

Sound level	Octave Band Center Frequency in Hz								
	31.5	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000
"A"	31.5	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000
35	58	50	42	35	32	29	26	23	20
40	61	54	46	40	37	34	31	28	25
45	64	58	51	45	42	39	36	33	30
50	67	61	55	50	47	44	41	38	35
55	70	64	60	55	52	49	46	43	40
60	73	68	64	60	57	54	51	48	45
65	76	72	68	65	62	59	56	53	50
70	79	76	73	70	67	64	61	58	55
75	84	81	78	75	72	69	66	63	60

4 Sec. 10. *Criteria/ Standards for Violations of this Act.* – In determining any  
 5 violation of this Act, the following criteria or standards shall be considered:

- 6 (a) Level of noise;
- 7 (b) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual;
- 8 (c) Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural;
- 9 (d) Level and intensity of the background noise, if any;
- 10 (e) Proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities;
- 11 (f) Nature and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;
- 12 (g) Density of the inhabitation of the area within which the noise emanates;
- 13 (h) Time of the day and night the noise occurs;
- 14 (i) Duration of noise;
- 15 (j) Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent, or constant; and
- 16 (k) Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or non-commercial activity.

17 Sec. 11. *Procedure and Criteria for Sound Level Measurement.* – Any sound  
 18 measurement made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be measured with  
 19 a sound level meter using the "A" weighing and response as indicated in Section 9



1 hereof. Except when impractical, the microphone shall be located four (4) to five (5)  
2 feet above the ground and ten (10) feet or more from the nearest reflective surface.  
3 However, in those cases where another elevation is deemed appropriate, the latter  
4 shall be utilized, interior sound level measurements shall be made at a point at least  
5 four (4) feet from the wall, ceiling, or floor nearest the noise source. Calibration of the  
6 sound level meter, utilizing an acoustic calibrator shall be performed immediately  
7 prior to recording any sound level data. The ambient noise level and the level of a  
8 particular noise being measured shall be the numerical average of noise  
9 measurements taken at a given location during a given time period.

10       *Sec. 12. Prohibited Acts.* – Any person who willfully make or continue, or cause  
11 to be made or continued, any loud, unnecessary and unusual noise which disturbs the  
12 peace or quiet of any neighborhood or which causes discomfort or annoyance to any  
13 reasonable person of normal sensitiveness residing in the area shall be liable for noise  
14 pollution and punishable under this Act.

15       The following shall constitute as prohibited acts punishable under this Act:

16       (a) Use or operate any radio, musical instrument, phonograph, television  
17 receiver, or other machine or device for producing, reproducing or  
18 amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound, in such a manner  
19 as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of the neighbor occupants or any  
20 reasonable person residing or working in the area;

21       (b) Operate any air conditioning, refrigeration or heating equipment for any  
22 residence or other structure or to operate any pumping, filtering or heating  
23 equipment for any pool or reservoir in such manner as to create any noise which  
24 would cause the noise level on the premises of any other occupied property or  
25 if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any  
26 adjoining unit to exceed the ambient noise level by more than five (5) decibels  
27 except when the operation of the equipment, instrument is for emergency work,  
28 periodic maintenance or testing or is reasonably necessary;

29       (c) Operate any lawn mower, back pack blower, lawn edger, riding tractor, or  
30 any other machinery, equipment, or other mechanical or electrical device, or any  
31 residential zone or within 500 feet of a residence between the hours of 10:00 p.m.  
32 and 7:00 a.m. of the following day;

1 (d) Operate or cause to be operated any machinery, equipment, tools, or other  
2 mechanical or electrical device or engage in any other activity in such manner  
3 as to create any noise which would cause the noise level on the premises of any  
4 other occupied property, or, if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or  
5 attached business, within any adjoining unit, to exceed the ambient noise level  
6 by more than five (5) decibels;

7 (e) Use gas powered blower within 500 feet of a residence at any time with the  
8 exception of leaf vacuum devices which operate at a sound level not to exceed  
9 45 dB(A) at any point that is normally occupied by a customer, unless a  
10 conspicuous and legible sign is located outside such place, near 5 each public  
11 entrance, stating;

12 (f) Operate, play, or permit the operation or playing of any radio, television  
13 receiver, phonograph, musical instrument, sound amplifying equipment, or  
14 similar device which produces, reproduces, or amplifies sound in any place of  
15 public entertainment at a sound level greater than 95 dB(A) at any point that is  
16 normally occupied by a customer, unless a conspicuous and legible sign is  
17 located outside such place, near each public entrance, stating;

18 (g) Repair, rebuild, reconstruct or dismantle any motor vehicle between the  
19 hours of 8:00 p.m. of one day and 8:00 a.m. the next day within any residential  
20 property located in a residential zone or within 500 feet thereof and that a  
21 reasonable person residing in the area experienced discomfort or annoyance and  
22 the activity is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from  
23 the property line of the noise;

24 (h) Create any noise which cause the noise level on the premises of any occupied  
25 residential property, or if a condominium, apartment house or duplex, within  
26 any adjoining unit, to exceed the ambient noise level by more than five (5)  
27 decibels;

28 (i) Operate any motor-driven vehicle upon any property or unreasonably  
29 accelerate the engine of any vehicle, or sound, blow or operate the horn or other  
30 warning device of such vehicle as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of any  
31 neighborhood or of any reasonable person residing in the area, provided that  
32 the activity is audible to the human ear at a distance in excess of 150 feet from

1 the property line of the noise source creating any noise which would cause the  
2 noise level on the premises of any occupied residential property, or if a  
3 condominium, apartment house or duplex, within any adjoining unit, to exceed  
4 the ambient noise level by more than five (5) decibels;

5 (j) Sound, blow or operate any music, chimes or bells, or any similar sound  
6 device, amplified or otherwise, within 200 feet of any residential building  
7 between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the next day;

8 (k) Install, operate or use any vehicle theft alarm system that emits or causes the  
9 emission of an audible sound, which is not, or does not become, automatically  
10 and completely silenced within five (5) minutes;

11 (l) Use of sound amplifying equipment out of the normal, adequate and  
12 tolerable sound level causing public nuisance of loud and unnecessary noise;

13 (m) Install, use, or operate a loud speaker or sound amplifying equipment in a  
14 fixed or movable position or mounted upon any sound truck for the purpose of  
15 giving instructions, directions, talks, addresses, lectures, or transmitting music  
16 to any persons or assemblages of persons in or upon any public street, alley, side  
17 walk, part or place, or other public property is prohibited between the hours of  
18 4:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. of the following day, except when the operation or use  
19 of sound amplifying equipment for non-commercial purposes in all residential  
20 zones is within 500 feet thereof and is used for regularly scheduled operative  
21 functions by any school or for the usual and customary purposes of any church.  
22 In all other zones and is within 500 feet of any residential zone, the operation or  
23 use of sound amplifying equipment for commercial purposes is prohibited  
24 between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. of the following day; and

25 (n) Modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner that shall amplify  
26 or increase the noise emitted by the engine of the motor vehicle in excess of the  
27 noise emitted by the muffler installed on the motor vehicle in the manufacturer's  
28 original design.

29 In all other zones, except such portions thereof as may be included with 500  
30 feet of any residential zone, the operation or use of sound amplifying equipment for  
31 non-commercial purposes is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.



1 of the following day and the only sounds permitted shall be either music, human  
2 speech, or both.

3 Sound emanating from sound amplifying equipment shall be limited in  
4 volume, tone and intensity when the sound is not audible at a distance in excess of  
5 200 feet from the sound equipment. In no event shall the sound be loud and raucous  
6 or unreasonably jarring, disturbing, annoying or a nuisance to reasonable persons of  
7 normal sensitiveness within the area of audibility.

8 Except as provided in (m) above, no sound amplifying equipment shall be  
9 operated upon any property adjacent to and within 200 feet of any hospital grounds  
10 or any school or church building while in use. †

11 Sec. 13. *Penalties.* – Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of  
12 Section 12 hereof, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than Ten Thousand  
13 Pesos (Php 10,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) or  
14 imprisonment of not less than two (2) months but not more than one (1) year, or both,  
15 upon the discretion of the court.

16 In case any violation of this Act is committed by a partnership, corporation,  
17 association or any juridical person, the partner, president, director or manager who  
18 consents to or knowingly tolerates such violation shall be held liable as a co-principal.

19 Sec. 14. *Formulation of a Comprehensive Anti-Noise Pollution Program.* – There  
20 shall be a comprehensive program to be formulated by the Department of  
21 Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health, and the Department of  
22 Public Works and Highways, in coordination with other concerned government  
23 agencies and private entities, within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

24 Sec. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the DENR, in  
25 coordination with the DOH, DILG, DOLE, DPWH, DHSUD shall within thirty (30)  
26 days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations to  
27 implement its provisions.

28 Sec. 16. *Appropriations.* – To implement the provisions of this Act, such amount  
29 as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National  
30 Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its operation shall be included in the  
31 annual appropriations of the DENR. †



1           Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part hereof, is declared invalid  
2 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law not otherwise affected shall remain valid  
3 and subsisting.

4           Sec. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or  
6 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
7 accordingly.

8           Sec. 19. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,