
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 910 Session of
1993

INTRODUCED BY SCRIMENTI, LEH, MIHALICH, TRELLO, MICOZZIE,
CAPPABIANCA, CLYMER, J. TAYLOR, DENT, ARGALL AND
YANDRISEVITS, MARCH 24, 1993

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 24, 1993

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, adding an offense relating to
3 vehicular sound amplification systems; and imposing a
4 penalty.

5 The General Assembly finds and declares the following:

6 (1) The use of loud sound amplification systems in
7 vehicles presents a safety hazard to the citizens and
8 motoring public of this Commonwealth.

9 (2) The use of loud sound amplification systems in
10 vehicles can prevent the operator of the vehicle from hearing
11 approaching or overtaking emergency vehicles.

12 (3) It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth to
13 protect the citizens of this Commonwealth from the nuisance
14 and hazard of noise pollution generated from loud vehicular
15 sound amplification systems.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated

1 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

2 § 5503.1. Loud vehicular sound amplification systems
3 prohibited.

4 (a) Offense defined.--No operator or passenger of a motor
5 vehicle shall operate or permit the operation of a sound
6 amplification system which can be heard outside the vehicle from
7 a distance of 50 or more feet when the vehicle is being operated
8 upon a street or highway.

9 (b) Defense.--It is a defense to a prosecution under
10 subsection (a) that operation of the sound amplification system
11 was not otherwise prohibited by law and that any of the
12 following are applicable:

13 (1) The sound amplification system was being operated to
14 request medical or vehicular assistance or to warn of a
15 hazardous road condition.

16 (2) The vehicle containing the sound amplification
17 system was an emergency or public safety vehicle.

18 (3) The vehicle containing the sound amplification
19 system was owned and operated by a governmental entity or a
20 gas, electric, communications, refuse, sewer or water utility
21 company.

22 (4) The vehicle containing the sound amplification
23 system was being used in a parade or other public event
24 organized and permitted according to the rules, procedures or
25 ordinances of the relevant local governmental authority.

26 (c) Grading.--An offense under subsection (a) is a
27 misdemeanor of the third degree if the intent of the actor is to
28 cause substantial harm or serious inconvenience, or if the actor
29 persists in violating subsection (a) after reasonable warning or
30 request to desist. Otherwise, a violation of subsection (a) is a

1 summary offense.

2 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the term "sound
3 amplification system" means a radio, tape player, compact disc
4 player, loud speaker or other electronic device used for
5 amplification of the human voice, music or any other noise or
6 sound.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.