

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4542



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a fact that many Filipinos lack simple road courtesy, tooting the horns of their vehicles at the slightest source of irritation, real or imagined. Some of them do not realize that their noisy impatience would not improve traffic congestion a whit. Worse, drivers of public utility vehicles actual impede the smooth flow of traffic by stopping at certain road points longer than allowed by the rules and honking their horns continuously in order to attract passengers. It is not far-fetched to say that the almost pathological blowing of horns on the part of some drivers is a precursor to murderous or homicidal road rage.

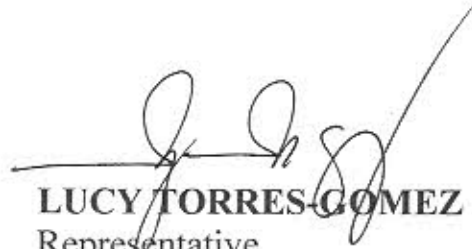
All of the above mentioned practices contribute to the over-all noise pollution in our country. The sensitivity of the human eardrums to noise is true not only in school and hospital zones but elsewhere as well. The state must take earnest steps to reduce the incidence of deafness among our people which is brought about in part by persistent exposure to inordinate levels of high decibels of noise.

This bill selects one day in the week as a “no *busina* day”. In essence, this proposed legislation is no different from “car-less days” in certain countries or our very own number coding scheme, all of which are exercises of the police power of the state to promote the general welfare. If we look at it, the institution of car-less days is an even more radical approach towards smoke and noise pollution. Hence, if the latter practice is constitutionally defensible, we could, in the same breath, affirm that a one-day ban against the tooting of horns would easily stand the test of constitutional scrutiny.

The choice of Sunday as the horn tooting-free day is perhaps auspicious considering that, in our mostly Christian communities, it is on

that day that houses of worship are occupied for the members' mostly solemn religious activities.

In view of the foregoing premises, the early consideration and passage of this bill into law are earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Torres-Gomez', is written over a horizontal line.

LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ
Representative
Fourth District of Leyte

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EVERY SUNDAY AS A "NO BUSINA DAY",
PROHIBITING FOR THE PURPOSE HORN TOOTING
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

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

SECTION 1. *Prohibited act.* – With the exception of drivers of ambulances and other vehicles carrying persons requiring immediate medical attention, fire trucks, police patrol cars, military vehicles and in emergency situations, drivers of all public and private vehicles throughout the country are hereby prohibited from tooting the horns of their vehicles every Sunday.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms or phrases shall be understood to mean as follows:

(a) **Horn Tooting** – refers to the unnecessary blowing of horns or the act of blowing the horn continuously, or when there is more than a single or a short sound of the horn;

(b) **Emergency Situation** – refers to situations needing immediate attention, such as but not limited to the following:

[1] where, inside the vehicle, there is a person who is seriously ill, about to give birth, or in analogous conditions; and

[2] where the driver toots the vehicle's horn to sound an alarm, or during an actual emergency to avoid imminent harm or injury against persons or property;

SEC. 3. *Penalties.* - Any driver who violates this Act shall be penalized with a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per offense which shall be paid at the nearest branch of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

SEC. 4. *Repealing clause.* - All acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a large, loopy 'S'.