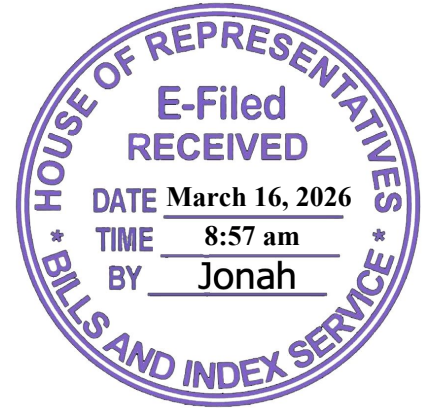


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8505



Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to a study by *Roxas et.al.*, “Transportation noise derived from roadside traffic continues to be a concern in highly urbanized areas such as Metro Manila, where frequent and excessive exposure to noise may negatively impact human behavior and performance.”

From residential neighborhoods disturbed late at night, to students unable to concentrate in schools, to patients recovering in hospitals, the impact of unnecessary engine noise due to loud modified mufflers is deeply felt. While motor vehicles are essential to mobility and economic activity, they must not operate at the expense of public peace and health. Excessively loud exhaust systems, often modified to produce “open pipe” or racing-style sounds, contribute to noise pollution that can cause stress, sleep disturbance, and possible ear damage.

The LTO currently sets the national standard for exhaust noise at a maximum of 99 decibels (dB), which is considered “incredibly loud.” It’s similar to hearing the roaring engine of a nearby chainsaw, which produces roughly 90 to 110 dB. According to Yale Environmental Health and Safety, prolonged exposure to noise at 90 dB can result in hearing loss.

It must be emphasized that *Section 34 of Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code*, already requires every motor vehicle to be equipped with a muffler to prevent excessive or unusual noise. However, while this provision exists, enforcement challenges, evolving vehicle modifications, and the proliferation of aftermarket exhaust systems have rendered it ineffective. The current penalties and regulatory mechanisms have proven insufficient if not ineffective to address this widespread and recurring issue. There are various City Ordinances like in Navotas, Manila and in Quezon City prohibiting the use of noisy mufflers.

This proposed measure does not seek to duplicate existing law and ordinances but to strengthen, modernize, and make it more uniform. The bill establishes clear and measurable national decibel standards, defines prohibited modifications such as open-pipe and straight exhaust systems, and introduces graduated penalties to discourage repeat violations. It also holds sellers, distributors, and installers of illegal mufflers accountable, filling in gaps not fully addressed under existing provisions.

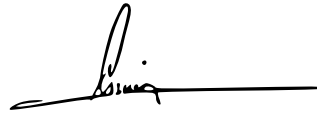
Current regulations exist but enforcement remains inconsistent, and penalties are often insufficient to deter repeat violations. Moreover, the continued sale and installation of illegal mufflers undermine efforts to maintain order on our roads.

This proposed measure seeks to establish clear national standards for permissible exhaust noise levels, prohibit the installation and use of modified or open-pipe mufflers that exceed those limits, and impose graduated penalties for violators. It also holds sellers and installers accountable, ensuring that regulation addresses both supply and use.

The bill empowers the Land Transportation Office (LTO), in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and local government units, to enforce uniform noise-testing procedures and conduct inspections consistent with due process.

This measure is not intended to target responsible motorists or motorcycle enthusiasts who comply with the law. Rather, it aims to strike a fair balance between individual freedom and the community's right to peace and quiet.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toby', followed by a horizontal line.

TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8505

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

AN ACT
PROHIBITING EXCESSIVE MOTOR VEHICLE MUFFLER AND EXHAUST NOISE,
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title.— This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Excessive Muffler Noise Act of 2026.”

SEC 2. Declaration of State Policy—It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect public health, safety, and general welfare from harmful noise pollution.

SEC 3. Coverage—This Act shall apply to all motor vehicles operating/using on national, city, municipal and barangay roads nationwide, including motorcycles, tricycles, passenger vehicles, and similar transport equipment.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms—For purposes of this Act:

- a. **Muffler** refers to device designed to reduce engine exhaust noise.
- b. **Modified Muffler** is any alteration of the factory-installed exhaust system that increases noise output beyond legal limits.
- c. **Open Pipe/Straight Pipe** is an exhaust system without a functional muffler or noise-reduction device.

d. *Excessive Noise* refers to exhaust sound exceeding 85 decibels (dBA) measured at a distance of 50 centimeters from the exhaust outlet at 2,000–2,500 RPM for motorcycles, or as may be set by implementing regulations.

SEC. 5. *Prohibited Acts*—It shall be unlawful to:

1. Operate a motor vehicle without a properly functioning muffler;
2. Install, sell, distribute, or use modified or open-pipe exhaust systems that amplify noise beyond legal limits;
3. Engage in unnecessary engine revving or backfire modifications causing public disturbance; and
4. Tamper with factory-installed noise-reduction systems.

SEC. 5. *Penalties*

a. For the *first offense*, a fine amounting to five thousand pesos (Php 5,000) shall be imposed.

b. For the *second offense*, a fine amounting to ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000) shall be imposed together with the suspension of the offender's driver's license for a period to be determined by the appropriate authority.

c. For the *Third and Subsequent Offenses*, the vehicle involved shall be impounded, and the offender's driver's license shall be revoked. The vehicle shall only be released upon mandatory restoration to its factory specifications and full compliance with the provisions of this Act.

Manufacturers, retailers or installers found *selling or installing illegal mufflers* shall be fined amounting to fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000) for the first offense, and shall be fined amounting to seventy thousand pesos (Php 70,000) for the second offense. For the third and subsequent repeated offenses, the establishment may *face suspension of its business permit* and possible *revocation of its license to operate*, subject to due process and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 7. *Enforcement*

1. The Land Transportation Office (LTO), in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and local government units (LGUs), shall enforce this Act.
2. The LTO shall establish uniform testing procedures and decibel limits consistent with international safety standards.
3. Random roadside inspections and noise testing operations may be conducted.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*—Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the LTO shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,