



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**Amendment**

LCO No. 4019

**\*HB0580604019HDO\***

Offered by:  
REP. ESPOSITO, 116<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5806      File No. 405      Cal. No. 270

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES."**

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1      After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2      internal references accordingly:

3      "Sec. 501. Section 14-80 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4      following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5      (a) Each motor vehicle and the devices on such vehicle shall be  
6      operated, equipped, constructed and adjusted to prevent unnecessary  
7      or unusual noise.

8      (b) Each motor vehicle operated by an internal combustion engine  
9      shall be equipped, except as hereinafter provided, with a muffler or  
10     mufflers designed to prevent excessive, unusual or unnecessary  
11     exhaust noise. The muffler or mufflers shall be maintained by the  
12     owner in good working order and shall be in use whenever the motor  
13     vehicle is operated. No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or  
14     repairer or a motorcycle dealer, shall install, and no person shall use,  
15     on a motor vehicle, a muffler or mufflers lacking interior baffle plates

16 or other effective muffling devices, a gutted muffler, a muffler cutout  
17 or a straight exhaust except when the motor vehicle is operated in a  
18 race, contest or demonstration of speed or skill as a public exhibition  
19 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 14-164a, as amended, or any  
20 mechanical device which will amplify the noise emitted by the vehicle.  
21 No person, including a motor vehicle dealer or repairer or a  
22 motorcycle dealer, shall remove all or part of any muffler on a motor  
23 vehicle except to repair or replace the muffler or part for the more  
24 effective prevention of noise. No person shall use on the exhaust  
25 system or tail pipe of a motor vehicle any extension or device which  
26 will cause excessive or unusual noise.

27 (c) The engine of every motor vehicle shall be equipped and  
28 adjusted to prevent excessive fumes or exhaust smoke.

29 (d) All pipes carrying exhaust gases from the motor shall be  
30 constructed of, and maintained with, leak-proof metal. Exhaust pipes  
31 shall be directed from the muffler or mufflers toward the rear of the  
32 vehicle and shall be approximately parallel with the longitudinal axis  
33 of the vehicle and approximately parallel to the surface of the  
34 roadway, or shall be directed from the muffler upward to a location  
35 above the cab or body of the vehicle so that fumes, gases and smoke  
36 are directed away from the occupants of the vehicle. Exhaust pipes on  
37 a passenger vehicle shall extend to the extreme rear end of the vehicle's  
38 body, not including the bumper and its attachments to the body, or  
39 shall be attached to the vehicle in such a way that the exhaust pipes  
40 direct the exhaust gases to either side of the vehicle ensuring that fresh  
41 ambient air is located under the vehicle at all times. The Commissioner  
42 of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations in accordance with the  
43 provisions of chapter 54 to establish safety standards for passenger  
44 vehicles equipped with exhaust pipes located in front of the rear axle.

45 (e) Every motor vehicle shall, when operated on a highway, be  
46 equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting  
47 sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less  
48 than two hundred feet, but no horn or other warning device shall emit

49 an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

50 (f) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use on a  
51 vehicle, any siren, whistle or bell as a warning signal device, except as  
52 otherwise permitted by this section. Any motor vehicle may be  
53 equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it  
54 cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any  
55 authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle  
56 or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions  
57 from a distance of not less than five hundred feet and of a type  
58 approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Such signal shall not  
59 be used unless the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call  
60 or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the  
61 law, in which event the driver of the vehicle shall sound the signal  
62 when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of  
63 the approach of the vehicle.

64 (g) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, after notice and  
65 opportunity for hearing in accordance with chapter 54, shall suspend  
66 the registration of any motor vehicle that is the subject of (1) two or  
67 more written warnings issued under the provisions of subsection (c) of  
68 section 14-103 of the 2006 supplement to the general statutes within a  
69 period of six months for a violation of subsection (b) of this section, or  
70 (2) two or more violations of subsection (b) of this section within a  
71 period of six months.

72 [(g)] (h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall  
73 be fined one hundred fifty dollars for each offense.

74 Sec. 502. Section 14-80a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

76 (a) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles, nor  
77 shall the owner of any vehicle allow the vehicle to be operated, at any  
78 time or under any condition of grade, surface, speed, load,  
79 acceleration, deceleration or weather condition in such a manner as to  
80 exceed the decibel levels established under subsection (c) of this

81 section. This subsection applies to the total noise generated by a  
82 vehicle and shall not be construed as limiting or precluding the  
83 enforcement of any other motor vehicle noise provisions of this title.

84 (b) No person shall sell or offer for sale a new vehicle which  
85 produces a maximum decibel level which exceeds the decibel levels  
86 established under subsection (c) of this section.

87 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, with the advice of the  
88 Commissioner of Environmental Protection, adopt regulations in  
89 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing the  
90 maximum decibel levels permissible for motor vehicles, which shall  
91 not exceed the maximum decibel levels established for motor vehicles  
92 by federal law or regulation. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
93 shall establish the procedure for checking maximum decibel levels.  
94 The decibel level shall be measured fifty feet from the centerline of the  
95 vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may provide for  
96 measuring at distances closer than fifty feet from the centerline of the  
97 vehicle. In such a case, the measuring devices shall be calibrated to  
98 provide for measurements equivalent to the noise limit established by  
99 this section measured at fifty feet.

100 (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, after notice and  
101 opportunity for hearing in accordance with chapter 54, shall suspend  
102 the registration of any motor vehicle that is the subject of two or more  
103 violations of subsection (a) of this section within a period of six  
104 months.

105 [(d)] (e) Violation of the provisions of this section shall be an  
106 infraction."