

SENATE BILL 2453
By Graves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, Part 1, relative to excessive noise from motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 8, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 55-8-193.

(a) No person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on any street, highway, alley, parking lot, or driveway, either public or private property, shall operate or permit the operation of any sound amplification system, including, but not limited to, any radio, tape player, compact disc player, loud speaker, or any other electrical device used for the amplification of sound from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of fifty (50) or more feet from the vehicle or, in the case of a motor vehicle on private property, beyond the property line. For the purpose of this section, "plainly audible" means any sound which clearly can be heard, by unimpaired auditory senses based on a direct line of sight of fifty (50) or more feet, however, words or phrases need not be discernible and such sound shall include bass reverberation.

(b) This section shall not be applicable to emergency or public safety vehicles, vehicles owned and operated by a municipal or county government or any utility company, for sound emitted unavoidably during a job-related operation, or any motor vehicle used in an authorized public activity for which a permit has been granted by the appropriate agency of a municipal or county government.

(c) A violation of this act is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine only of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.