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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5043**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2005 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senator Mulliken)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to noise control; creating new sections; and making  
2 an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Bass sound harmonics may cause adverse auditory and nonauditory  
6 effects, including hearing loss, communication and sleep disturbance,  
7 increasing stress levels, changes in mood, and impact to cardiovascular  
8 and endocrine systems;

9 (b) Exposure to bass sound harmonics may cause long-term damage;

10 (c) With increasing population sizes and new and developing  
11 technologies for the production of bass sound harmonics, more  
12 Washingtonians are exposed for longer periods to bass sound harmonics;

13 (d) The scientific research into the health effects of bass sound  
14 harmonics has not been extensively studied, and state and local  
15 programs relating to the restriction on bass sound harmonics should be  
16 considered; and

17 (e) The state noise program has not been comprehensively reviewed  
18 with respect to its application to bass sound harmonics.

1 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to authorize a comprehensive  
2 review of current federal research studies on the health effects of  
3 bass sound harmonics, if any, and a review of current state and local  
4 noise programs that includes provisions relating to bass sound  
5 harmonics in order to provide greater understanding of opportunities to  
6 strengthen those programs as well as further public education regarding  
7 the health effects of bass sound harmonics.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By January 1, 2007, the department of  
9 health, with the guidance of the board of health, shall provide to the  
10 appropriate committees of the senate and the house of representatives  
11 an assessment of the health effects of bass sound harmonics and  
12 recommendations for reducing the effects. The study shall include but  
13 not be limited to:

14 (1) A review of the literature on the effects of bass sound  
15 harmonics, with an emphasis upon more contemporary research completed  
16 in the previous two decades. The review shall include research  
17 findings on direct auditory effects, as well as nonauditory effects  
18 such as sleep, emotional and communication disturbance, and stress  
19 effects;

20 (2) An assessment of the principal sources of bass sound harmonics  
21 in Washington communities and trends in bass sound harmonics in  
22 representative urban, suburban, and rural areas;

23 (3) A review of the current bass sound harmonics programs at the  
24 state and local level, including public education and compliance  
25 activities;

26 (4) A review of federal noise control laws and programs and  
27 regulatory subjects preempted by federal laws with respect to bass  
28 sound harmonics; and

29 (5) Recommendations for improving state and local noise control  
30 programs to address the health effects of bass sound harmonics  
31 identified in the study and for more effective administration of  
32 existing programs, including state financial and technical assistance  
33 to local governments.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) In conducting the study required by  
35 section 2 of this act, the department of health shall form an advisory  
36 committee including representatives of community organizations

1 concerned with bass sound harmonics, industries characterized by high  
2 noise levels, motorized vehicle manufacturers, transportation  
3 facilities, and scientific research interests. The department may  
4 retain independent consultants for technical elements of health effects  
5 analyses.

6 (2) The department shall provide for public participation in the  
7 development of the report, including one or more public forums and the  
8 provision of an opportunity for public review and comment upon a draft  
9 report.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of sixty thousand dollars, or as  
11 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
12 ending June 30, 2006, from the general fund to the department of health  
13 for the purposes of this act. The department may contract with another  
14 entity to complete portions of the study provisions in this act, but  
15 any contract may not allow greater than twenty-five percent of the  
16 total contract amount for indirect costs.

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