



H.B. 72 Noise Pollution Amendments

Preserving health, aiding police,
and building better communities

Summary

49 states, including Utah, have attempted to limit noise pollution by passing laws that prohibit the use of a modified muffler that creates excessive noise. But the burden to enforce these laws has fallen on already overworked police departments that don't have the staff or the tools to crack down on noise pollution. This bill would incorporate muffler inspections into existing emissions inspections, thereby cutting down on noise pollution and building a quieter, safer Utah.

The Problem

1. Since the beginning of 2020, SLCPD has received over 100 complaints about noise pollution on State Street alone.¹
2. Police rarely have the tools, time or resources to inspect vehicles for modified mufflers.
3. Modified mufflers operate at such a volume that they generate noise harmful to human health.

“It’s a citywide problem. It’s a countywide problem. On the priority list, this may not be as high as some of our other calls and...our staffing numbers have dropped over the last year.”

-Deputy Chief Lamar Ewell, SLCPD¹



Noise pollution can cause significant disturbances to sleep, including inducing insomnia and having run-on effects for daytime health and wellbeing.²



Noise pollution has been shown to cause serious clinical conditions like cardiovascular illness, depression, anxiety, and other mental illness.²



Nighttime noise pollution has been shown to have negative effects on children’s memory, concentration, and performance in school.²

Conclusions

The bottom line is this: modified mufflers are already illegal in Utah, but there is effectively no enforcement mechanism in place to get them off the streets. They are an additional burden on police departments, and the problem could be easily solved by passing this legislation and including mufflers in normal emissions inspections.

1. KSL News - <https://www.ksl.com/article/50219294/ksl-investigates-unbearable-street-noise-lack-of-enforcement>
2. World Health Organization Europe - https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/43316/E92845.pdf