



SR0306

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Gas-powered leaf blowers, which simultaneously harm our health and environment, continue to be popular today; although gardeners and landscapers love the efficiency of these devices, educating consumers about the use of these blowers is important in order to enhance our health and lower toxic air pollutants in our everyday environment; and

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WHEREAS, The most noticeable consequence of gas-powered leaf blowers is the ear-piercing noise, which is not only annoying for neighbors but also harmful for our health; according to a 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, leaf blowers create a common noise that can contribute to permanent hearing loss; additionally, noise pollution can cause stress, headaches, difficulty sleeping, productivity loss, higher heart attack rates, and more; and

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WHEREAS, Even worse than the irritating noise produced by leaf blowers are the health effects created by particulate matter and exhaust gas released into the air; as leaf blowers generate wind speeds of around 180 miles per hour, they propel into the air potentially hazardous substances, such as dirt, mold, pollen, animal feces, and pesticides; exposure to these dust clouds, which take hours to settle, damages the human respiratory system and may cause irritation, allergies, and

1 disease; and

2 WHEREAS, Gas-powered leaf blowers are detrimental to the
3 environment; most gas-powered leaf blowers use a two-stroke
4 engine, which burns fuel very inefficiently and releases all
5 of its tailgate emissions directly into the environment; the
6 emitted air pollutants include carbon monoxide, which
7 contributes to ground-level ozone, nitrous oxides, which
8 contribute to smog formation and can cause acid rain, and
9 hydrocarbons, which can be carcinogenic; and

10 WHEREAS, The environmental impact of gas-powered leaf
11 blowers must not be underestimated; one study showed that
12 under normal usage conditions, a leaf blower two-stroke engine
13 emits nearly 300 times the hydrocarbons of a pickup truck, 93
14 times the hydrocarbons of a sedan, and many times as much
15 carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides; if a pickup truck was
16 driven for 3,900 miles, the amount of hydrocarbons emitted
17 would be equivalent to using the two-stroke leaf blower for
18 only about half an hour of yard work; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage people to
21 research alternatives to using a gas-powered leaf blower to
22 reduce the negative impact these devices have on our health
23 and environment.