

HB3513



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB3513

by Rep. Robert F. Martwick

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Radio Broadcast Safety Act. Provides that a radio broadcaster is prohibited from transmitting any siren or crash noise via over-the-air communication that may be heard by a driver. Provides a penalty for violation of this Act. Effective immediately.

LRB099 09562 MGM 29771 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Radio
5 Broadcast Safety Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that the
7 broadcast of sirens or noises replicating a vehicular collision
8 over the radio may cause drivers listening to the radio to
9 become distracted. These drivers may, upon hearing a siren or
10 vehicular crash on the radio, mistake the sound for an actual
11 siren or vehicular crash within the immediate vicinity of the
12 vehicle they are operating. These drivers may then engage in
13 unreasonable driving behaviors, such as pulling over abruptly
14 to clear the road for an emergency vehicle, or applying the
15 brakes suddenly to avoid a vehicular collision. These sudden
16 reactions may cause a safety hazard for the driver and others
17 drivers within the immediate vicinity. Therefore, the General
18 Assembly finds that prohibiting these noises from being
19 broadcast over the radio is necessary to protect the safety and
20 well-being of all drivers.

21 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

22 "Crash noise" means any sound transmitted by a radio

1 broadcaster via an over-the-air communication that is
2 substantially similar to the sound of two or more vehicles
3 colliding. "Crash noises" include, but are not limited to,
4 screeching tires or screeching rubber, and glass or metal
5 colliding.

6 "Driver" means every person who drives or is in actual
7 physical control of a vehicle.

8 "Radio broadcaster" means a radio broadcasting station,
9 primarily engaged in, and deriving income from, the business of
10 facilitating speech via over-the-air communications, including
11 both pure speech and commercial speech.

12 "Siren" means any sound transmitted by a radio broadcaster
13 via an over-the-air communication that is substantially
14 similar to the sound of a police vehicle, fire vehicle,
15 ambulance, or other emergency vehicle that is high pitched in
16 tone and is used to alert drivers of the police vehicle, fire
17 vehicle, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle.

18 Section 15. Offense. A radio broadcaster is prohibited from
19 transmitting any siren or crash noise via over-the-air
20 communication that may be heard by a driver. This prohibition
21 includes advertisements transmitted by the radio broadcaster.

22 Section 20. Penalties. Whoever violates this Act is guilty
23 of a petty offense, and upon conviction thereof shall be
24 punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500

1 for the first offense and not less than \$500 nor more than
2 \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.