

HB6002



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB6002

by Rep. Carol A. Sente

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

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

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

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

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

21 "Radio broadcaster" means a radio broadcasting station,
22 primarily engaged in, and deriving income from, the business of

1 facilitating speech via over-the-air communications, including
2 both pure speech and commercial speech.

3 "Siren" means any sound transmitted by a radio broadcaster
4 via an over-the-air communication that is substantially
5 similar to the sound of a police vehicle, fire vehicle,
6 ambulance, or other emergency vehicle that is high pitched in
7 tone and is used to alert drivers of the police vehicle, fire
8 vehicle, ambulance, or other emergency vehicle.

9 Section 15. Offense. A radio broadcaster is prohibited from
10 transmitting any siren via over-the-air communication that may
11 be heard by a driver. This prohibition includes advertisements
12 transmitted by the radio broadcaster.

13 Section 20. Penalties. Whoever violates this Act is guilty
14 of a petty offense, and upon conviction thereof shall be
15 punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500
16 for the first offense and not less than \$500 nor more than
17 \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.