

HOUSE No. 3246

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to motorcycle noise reduction..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the sentence contained in lines 51 to 57,
3 inclusive, and inserting in place thereof, the following:-

4 Every motor vehicle so operated shall be provided with a muffler or other suitable device
5 to prevent unnecessary noise; provided, however, that every motorcycle so operated shall be
6 provided with a muffler or other suitable device that produces a sound pressure level of not more
7 than eighty-two decibels or such lower amount of decibels as the Registrar may prescribe. Sound
8 pressure levels in decibels shall be measured on the "A" scale of a sound level meter approved by
9 the Registrar. Measurements shall be made of overall vehicle noise at maximum speed at fifty
10 feet in accordance with test procedure SAE J192 of the Society of Automotive Engineers, or with
11 such other test procedure for measurement of sound pressure levels as the registrar may adopt.

12 Every motor vehicle shall be provided with a suitable bell, horn or other means of signaling, with
13 suitable lamps, and with a lock, key or other device to prevent such vehicle from being set in

14 motion by unauthorized persons, or otherwise contrary to the will of the owner or person in
15 charge thereof.

16 SECTION 2. Section 7U of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
17 amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

18 Any person cited for a noise violation under this section shall be subject to a fine, in an
19 amount to be determined by the registrar. Any person cited for a second or subsequent violation
20 within a one-year period shall be prohibited from operating the motorcycle used when
21 committing such violation until such time as the motorcycle has passed an inspection and is
22 deemed to comply with acceptable sound level standards, as determined by the registrar.

23 SECTION 3. There is hereby established a special commission to study the problems
24 associated with excessive noise caused by motorcycles. Said commission shall consist of the
25 Registrar of Motor Vehicles or his designee, who shall serve as chair; two members of the
26 Senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom shall be
27 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and two members of the House of Representatives,
28 one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one of
29 whom shall be appointed by the House Minority Leader; two representatives of the
30 Massachusetts Motorcycle Association; and a representative from a Massachusetts-based
31 motorcycle dealership. In conducting its study, the commission shall consider, but not be limited
32 to, making a determination as to the best methods for educating motorcycle riders about the
33 public nuisance created by excessive sound levels and how to best address this problem. Said
34 commission shall report its findings and recommendations for corrective legislation to the House

- 35 and Senate committees on Ways and Means and to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and
- 36 Homeland Security no later than September 1, 2010.