

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5351

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 2, 2023

Introduced by Sen. FERNANDEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to municipal shooting ranges; and directing the department of health to conduct a study describing the contaminants and other pollutants in the ground and water bodies adjacent to certain shooting ranges

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 97-a to read as follows:

3 § 97-a. Municipal shooting ranges. 1. All shooting ranges owned or  
4 used by a municipality, including shooting ranges used by law enforce-  
5 ment for training purposes, shall only be in operation between eight  
6 a.m. and eight p.m. and only operate one weekend per month.

7 2. Such shooting ranges shall be fully enclosed with proper sound  
8 abatement and any bombs detonated at such shooting range shall be  
9 performed in a fully enclosed area. Any noise or noise pollution  
10 resulting from the activity on such shooting range shall be in compli-  
11 ance with any applicable noise control laws or ordinances, or, if the  
12 applicable noise control laws or ordinances have no legal force and  
13 effect against such owner or user or there are no applicable noise  
14 control laws or ordinances at the time of the effective date of this  
15 section, then the A-weighted sound level of small arms fire on the  
16 shooting range shall not exceed 90 dB(A) for one hour out of a day, or  
17 shall not exceed 80 dB(A) for eight hours out of a day measured at, or  
18 adjusted to, a distance of one hundred feet outside the real property  
19 boundary of the shooting range.

20 3. For the purposes of this section:

21 (a) "Shooting range" shall mean a range equipped with targets for use  
22 with firearms and shall include, but not be limited to, all rifle,  
23 pistol and shotgun ranges and ranges used for training law enforcement,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 including ranges used for automatic and semiautomatic weapons and the  
2 detonation of bombs.

3 (b) "A-weighted sound level" shall mean the sound pressure level meas-  
4 ured by the use of an instrument with the metering characteristics and  
5 A-weighting frequency response prescribed by sound level meters using  
6 the impulse response mode.

7 (c) "Sound pressure level" shall mean twenty times the logarithm to  
8 the base ten of the ratio of the root mean squared pressure of a sound  
9 to a reference pressure of twenty micropascals. The unit applied to this  
10 measure shall be the decibel (dB).

11 (d) "Small arms" shall mean projectile firearms of small caliber,  
12 including rifles, pistols and shotguns.

13 § 2. The department of health, with the assistance of the department  
14 of environmental conservation, shall conduct a study describing the  
15 contaminants and other pollutants in the ground and water bodies that  
16 are adjacent to each shooting range owned or used by a municipality,  
17 including any shooting ranges used by law enforcement for training  
18 purposes. The department of health shall deliver a written report of its  
19 findings to the governor and the legislature one year after the effec-  
20 tive date of this act. The department shall also establish a remediation  
21 plan, if needed, and shall make such a plan readily available on the  
22 department's website.

23 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.