

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5874

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to amend regulations concerning the day-night average sound level, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BEYER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to amend regulations concerning the day-night average sound level, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Decrease Noise Levels
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The day-night average sound level rep-
2 resents the total accumulation of all sound energy
3 averaged over a 24-hour period.

4 (2) The current Federal Aviation Administra-
5 tion guidelines for the day-night average sound level
6 are 65.

7 (3) Excessive airplane noise has been shown to
8 negatively effect hypertension, heart disease, learn-
9 ing deficits in children, sleep patterns, sleep quality,
10 and overall mood.

11 (4) Approximately 10,000,000 Americans who
12 are afflicted with some hearing loss can at least par-
13 tially attribute this damage to exposure from noise.

14 (5) Aircraft and airport noise is one of the most
15 common “quality of life” nuisance issues in neigh-
16 borhoods throughout the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. DAY-NIGHT AVERAGE SOUND LEVEL REDUCTION.**

18 The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
19 tration shall amend part 150 of title 14, Code of Federal
20 Regulations, to decrease the threshold for the day-night
21 average sound level to constitute significant noise from 65
22 to 60, and adjust relative ranges of day-night average
23 sound level accordingly.

1 **SEC. 4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH REGARDING DAY-NIGHT**
2 **AVERAGE SOUND LEVELS.**

3 The Secretary shall ensure that in carrying out com-
4 munity outreach related to aviation day-night average
5 sound levels, such outreach contains the results of the
6 evaluation of alternative metrics to the current average
7 day-night level standard under section 188 of the FAA
8 Reauthorization Act of 2018 and the evaluation of alter-
9 native metrics carried out under section 173 of such Act.

10 **SEC. 5. STRATEGY AND REPORTING.**

11 Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-
13 ministration shall create a publicly available report that
14 outlines a strategy to reduce the maximum day-night aver-
15 age sound level in all residential areas to 55 over the 10
16 years following the date of enactment of this Act.

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