## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION  ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE	
H. P. 1847 House of Repre Filed under Joint Rule 18 pursuant 1,600 ordered printed.	esentatives, January 13, 1982 to Joint Order H. P. 1629 and EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
STATE OF M	MAINE —
IN THE YEAR OF NINETEEN HUNDRED	
AN ACT to Regulate the Sound Premises Licensed to	
Be it enacted by the People of the	State of Maine as follows:
Be it enacted by the People of the 28 MRSA §855 is enacted to rea	
, ,	

Restriction; notice. No licensee for the sale of liquor to be consumed on licensed premises may operate play or permit the operation or playing of any radio, television, phonograph, jukebox, drum, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces amplifies sound at a sound level greater than 95 dB(A) as read by the slow response on a sound level meter at any point that is normally occupied by a customer. If sound levels do not exceed 95 dB(A) but are greater than 85 dB(A), when so measured, the licensee shall post a conspicuous and the premises, outside sign near each entrance, stating: "WARNING: SOUND LEVELS WITHIN MAY CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING IMPAIRMENT."

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## STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill, based in part upon an Environmental Protection Agency model community noise control ordinance, is to limit the levels of sound in licensed establishments.

Excessive noise levels can lead to permanent hearing impairment, quickened pulse rate, increased blood pressure and narrowing of blood vessels, according to federal government publications.

Occupational noise exposure is largely governed by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, and compensated under the State Occupational Disease Law. Current Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations call for mandatory hearing conservation programs where covered workers are subjected to noise levels in excess of 90 dB(A). By comparison, normal conversation registers about 65 dB(A) and a power saw registers about 110 dB(A).

This bill addresses part of the gap in present law, that of nonoccupational noise exposure. Music in a licensed establishment may exceed 110 dB(A) levels, with people working or relaxing in the area for periods of several hours.

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