



The "Harmonious Living Amendment Act of 2021" Does Not Address the Immediate Issue of Excessive Volume in Public Spaces

The "Harmonious Living Amendment Act of 2021" is not a substitute for legislation to regulate excessive sound volume in public spaces.

The bill would set sound attenuation standards for new residential construction in activity areas or entertainment areas. It would also create a grant program for soundproofing entertainment venues. It also would require the Mayor to publish a report on strategies to accommodate outdoor performances.

While the bill establishes a property tax deduction for soundproofing of residential real property, the tax benefits would not begin until 2023 and the savings would be minimal. The bill sets a maximum reduction in property tax assessments of \$50,000 which would result in a property tax savings of \$425.00.

The bill would do nothing to address the immediate needs of citizens, visitors, and performers who are being exposed to sounds at excessive volume. Moreover, the value of soundproofing measures in effectively reducing exposure to excessive sound is questionable. Members of the DC Harmony Coalition have installed expensive sound dampening materials and experienced no appreciable reduction in exposure.