

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

As Engrossed: H4/2/01  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 2468

5 By: Representative Verkamp  
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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS OIL AND GAS*  
10 *COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS*  
11 *RELATING TO NOISE FROM GAS WELLS, COMPRESSION,*  
12 *AND PRODUCTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*  
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS OIL AND GAS*  
16 *COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE*  
17 *PROBLEMS RELATING TO NOISE FROM GAS WELLS,*  
18 *COMPRESSION, AND PRODUCTION.*  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. (a) The Oil and Gas Commission shall conduct a study to  
24 address the issue of the level of noise resulting from the operation and  
25 maintenance of natural gas wells, pipelines, compressors, or any  
26 appurtenances to those wells, pipelines, compressors, or from the  
27 distribution, transportation, gathering, processing, or storage of natural  
28 gas.

29 (b) The commission shall hold at least six (6) public hearings at  
30 various locations and times throughout the state.

31 (c) The study shall include, but not be limited to:

32 (1) A review and study of past problems;

33 (2) Investigation and documentation of current common practices  
34 in the operation of gas drilling and production equipment;

35 (3) The review and study of other states as possible regulatory  
36 guidelines on noise standards;

1 (4) A review of federal noise standards;

2 (5) A review of the best available technology to minimize noise  
3 resulting from gas compression, and production equipment;

4 (6) A study of the current practices involving the use of gas  
5 compression, and production equipment;

6 (7) A review of the density of wells and compressors, the  
7 parameters and location of pipelines, and service features in areas where  
8 residents complain of noise generated by gas compression, or production  
9 equipment.

10 (d) During the study the commission shall consider:

11 (1) Information published by the Administrator of the United  
12 States Environmental Protection Agency on the levels of environmental noise  
13 that must be attained and maintained in defined areas under various  
14 conditions to protect public health and welfare with an adequate margin of  
15 safety;

16 (2) Scientific information about the volume, frequency,  
17 duration, and other characteristics of noise that may create a nuisance or  
18 harm public health, safety, or general welfare, including:

19 (A) Temporary or permanent hearing loss;

20 (B) Interference with sleep, speech communication, work,  
21 or other human activities;

22 (C) Adverse physiological responses;

23 (D) Psychological distress;

24 (E) Harm to animal life;

25 (F) Devaluation of or damage to property; and

26 (G) Unreasonable interference with the enjoyment of life  
27 or property;

28 (3) The residential, commercial, or industrial nature of the  
29 area affected;

30 (4) Zoning;

31 (5) The nature and source of various kinds of noise;

32 (6) The degree of noise reduction that may be attained and  
33 maintained using the best available technology;

34 (7) Accepted scientific and professional methods for measurement  
35 of sound levels; and

36 (8) The cost of compliance with the sound level limits.

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SECTION 2. The Oil and Gas Commission shall report to the House and Senate Interim Committees on City, County, and Local Affairs within thirty (30) days after every third public hearing required by this act.

/s/ Verkamp