

SB 525-1
(LC 3257)
3/21/23 (STN/ps)

Requested by Senator DEMBROW

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE BILL 525**

1 On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, after “engines” insert a period and
2 delete the rest of the line.

3 After line 2, insert:

4 “Whereas gasoline-powered leaf blowers are harmful to human health and
5 well-being due to their dangerously high noise levels and unhealthy emis-
6 sions; and

7 “Whereas the effects of gasoline-powered leaf blowers have been likened
8 to secondhand smoke, inflicting harm on nearby individuals who cannot
9 easily avoid it; and

10 “Whereas gasoline-powered leaf blowers have an operating volume that
11 often exceeds decibel levels known to cause damage to the ear and have been
12 identified as common contributors to permanent hearing loss; and

13 “Whereas prolonged or repeated exposure to sound levels above 85 deci-
14 bels, which are common with backpack-style leaf blowers, can cause perma-
15 nent hearing loss; and

16 “Whereas elevated noise levels also increase stress and anxiety and can
17 cause depression, high blood pressure, heart disease and other ailments; and

18 “Whereas studies show that one gasoline-powered leaf blower can create
19 unsafe levels of noise for a distance of up to 800 feet; and

20 “Whereas the peculiar, low-frequency noise from gasoline-powered leaf
21 blowers has great penetrating power and can go through walls and cement

1 barriers; and

2 “Whereas in a densely settled neighborhood, a gasoline-powered leaf
3 blower rated at 75 decibels can affect up to 15 times as many households as
4 a battery-powered leaf blower with the same 75-decibel rating; and

5 “Whereas gasoline-powered leaf blowers emit pollutants at disproportion-
6 ately high rates, including fine particulates, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides,
7 hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds, many of which also contribute
8 to smog formation; and

9 “Whereas gasoline-powered leaf blowers harm operators, who are closest
10 to the source of harm, are disproportionately from disadvantaged communi-
11 ties and disproportionately suffer the health impacts of gasoline-powered leaf
12 blowers; and

13 “Whereas gasoline-powered leaf blowers harm remote workers and online
14 learners, who work or learn at home during the day, whose numbers have
15 significantly increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and
16 who are impacted more than ever before by gasoline-powered leaf blower
17 noise; and

18 “Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to the negative
19 externalities from gasoline-powered leaf blowers, as noise particularly affects
20 their ability to concentrate and learn, as well as their hearing; and

21 “Whereas people with special health conditions, including respiratory
22 illnesses such as asthma, brain injuries and other disorders whose symptoms
23 can include extreme, often debilitating sensitivities to noise, are harmed by
24 gasoline-powered leaf blowers; and

25 “Whereas there are affordable alternatives to gasoline-powered leaf
26 blowers, including electric leaf blowers, which are quieter and safer to op-
27 erate and less harmful to the environment; now, therefore,”.

28 Delete lines 4 through 29 and delete page 2 and insert:

29 **“SECTION 1. (1) A person may not use, cause the person’s employee
30 to use or cause to be used on property owned or controlled by the**

1 person a gasoline-powered leaf blower within a city with a population
2 of 500,000 or greater.

3 “(2)(a) If an enforcement officer, as defined in ORS 153.005, finds a
4 person to be in violation of subsection (1) of this section, and it is the
5 person’s first violation, the enforcement officer shall issue a written
6 warning.

7 “(b) The enforcement officer shall enter the written warning into
8 the Law Enforcement Data System.

9 “(3) A second or subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this sec-
10 tion is a Class C violation.

11 “SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act becomes operative on Jan-
12 uary 1, 2025.”.

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