



## Problem Bars, Which Agency Does What?

*Info from State Representative Jess Benham/ 412-881-4208 / RepBenham@pahouse.net*

### Noise Violations, Violence, and Criminal Activity

To report noise violations or criminal activity, contact **9-1-1** and the **City of Pittsburgh Nuisance Bar Task Force** at 412-323-7761.

Contacting 9-1-1 around noise violations or criminal activity is the only enforcement option that carries an immediate response and penalty.

According to Title 6, Chapter 601, Section 4 of Pittsburgh City Code, the City of Pittsburgh is responsible for citing establishments which violate noise ordinances. There is a fine of not more than \$300 per offense, or not more than 30 days in jail.

Pittsburgh Police enforce violations of city code around criminal activity. PA State Police are not permitted to enforce local ordinances.

### Occupancy Complaints

Occupancy complaints are enforced by **Allegheny County Department of Health**.

Complaints can be filed online via the Allegheny County Department of Health Website.

[https://alleghenycounty.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(demwkdy0efqx3rsvbfujymaj\)\)/SupportHome.aspx?sSessionID=&lp=10](https://alleghenycounty.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/(S(demwkdy0efqx3rsvbfujymaj))/SupportHome.aspx?sSessionID=&lp=10)

### Administrative Violations of PA Liquor Code

Per the Pennsylvania Liquor Code, the Pennsylvania State Police, **Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (LCE)** only enforces what are called “administrative violations” of liquor law, as the City of Pittsburgh has jurisdiction over enforcement around violations of municipal code.

While administrative violations can result in penalties after a hearing is held and can ultimately be held against the bar’s license when it comes up for renewal, they do not carry an immediate penalty like the citations mentioned in the bullet point above. I am in frequent contact with LCE, and they have confirmed that they are on and will continue to be on Carson St investigating administrative violations, including loud music that can be heard beyond the licensee’s property line.

When Pittsburgh police cites bars, those local citations can also be sent by the City of Pittsburgh to LCE and will also pile up against the establishment’s alcohol license.

You can report violations to the LCE via 1-800-932-0602 or online at <https://expressforms.pa.gov/apps/pa/psp/blce-online-complaint>

### Legislative Solutions on the State Level

While other legislative solutions may exist on the county and city level, on the state level, I am working on a bill, HB1474.

To advocate for my legislation around more local control over liquor licensees (HB1474), consider contacting the members of the **PA House Liquor Control Committee**.

The Majority Chair of the committee, **Chair Metzgar**, controls whether my bill receives a vote.

The members of the committee can be viewed here:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/cteeInfo/Index.cfm?Code=28&CteeBody=H>

I will continue to do all I can on the state level, which has involved introducing legislation and advocating alongside Sen. Costa to bring LCE and PA State Police to South Side, as well as providing state funding for violence intervention and first responders. The pedestrian improvements to Carson St., which will help alleviate congestion of pedestrians on busy nights, are also happening because of state investment.