



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 36

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6481

House of Representatives, March 8, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) No person, nonprofit organization, firm or corporation, including
4 the state and its political subdivisions, shall knowingly release, organize
5 the release of or intentionally cause to be released into the atmosphere
6 [within a twenty-four-hour period ten or more] helium or other lighter-
7 than-air gas balloons in the state. The provisions of this section shall not
8 apply to any such balloon deployed by the National Weather Service or
9 any similar research entity.

10 (b) Any violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be an
11 infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	26-25c
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ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the current ban on the intentional release of more than nine helium or certain other balloons within a 24-hour period, to an intentional release of any such balloons into the air (with specified exemptions). A violation of the current ban and the proposed expanded ban is an infraction.

This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as no fines have been issued in the past for the release of balloons and none are expected under the expanded law.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6481*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning October 1, 2023, this bill generally prohibits knowingly releasing, organizing the release of, or intentionally causing the release of helium or other lighter-than-air gas balloons into the atmosphere. Current law limits releases to fewer than 10 balloons within a 24-hour period. As under existing law, a violation of the ban is an infraction.

The bill exempts from the ban balloons deployed by the National Weather Service or similar research entities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/17/2023)