



House of Representatives

File No. 720

General Assembly

January Session, 2023

(Reprint of File No. 36)

House Bill No. 6481
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 5, 2023

***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 Section 26-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the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] person, nonprofit organization, firm or
11 corporation, including the state and its political subdivisions, that
12 violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be [an

13 infraction] issued a warning.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	26-25c
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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). This has no fiscal impact as no fines have been issued in the past for the release of balloons and none are expected under the expanded law.

House "A" reduces the penalty for violating the balloon release law from an infraction to a warning, which has no associated fine. This has no fiscal impact since no fine revenue has been received previously.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6481 (as amended by House "A")******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. The bill exempts from the ban balloons deployed by the National Weather Service or similar research entities.

Additionally, the current penalty for a violation of the balloon release law is an infraction. The bill eliminates this penalty and instead requires violators to be issued a warning.

*House Amendment "A" reduces the penalty for violating the balloon release law from an infraction to a warning.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/17/2023)