



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 172

January Session, 2019

House Bill No. 5314

House of Representatives, March 28, 2019

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. DEMICCO, M. of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE RELEASE OF HELIUM BALLOONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

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 Section 26-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2019*):

3 (a) No person, nonprofit organization, firm or corporation,
4 including the state and its political subdivisions, shall knowingly
5 release, organize the release of or intentionally cause to be released
6 into the atmosphere [within a twenty-four-hour period ten or more]
7 helium or other lighter-than-air gas balloons in the state.

8 (b) Any violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be an
9 infraction.

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

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</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 modifies current law, prohibiting the intentional release of helium balloons and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as no fines have been collected in the past 10 years.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5314*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE RELEASE OF HELIUM BALLOONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits the knowing, intentional, or organized release of lighter-than-air (e.g., helium) balloons by individuals, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the state and its political subdivisions. Current law limits these releases to nine balloons within a 24-hour period.

Unchanged by the bill, violating the ban is an infraction, subject to a \$35 fine.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/08/2019)