



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 471**

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5294

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2022*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute 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 Section 26-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2022*):

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, 2022</i>	26-25c
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**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill exempts balloons deployed by the National Weather Service or similar research entities from the current ban on the release of balloons. This has no fiscal impact on the state or municipalities.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5294**

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS.***

**SUMMARY**

Beginning October 1, 2022, 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, 2022

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31    Nay 0    (03/29/2022)