



Substitute Senate Bill No. 452

Public Act No. 26-90

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF LIGHTER-THAN-AIR
BALLOONS.**

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

Section 1. Section 26-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

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

(b) Any violation of [subsection (a) of] this section shall be an infraction.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) On and after January 1, 2027, any retailer that sells or offers for sale any helium or other lighter-than-air gas filled balloon in the state to any consumer shall not provide such filled balloon to a consumer unless a weight is attached to such filled balloon that is sufficient to prevent such filled balloon from rising into the atmosphere.

(b) Any retailer who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this

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section shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Department of Consumer Protection in the amount of twenty dollars per violation.

(c) For purposes of this section, "retailer" means any firm, partnership, association or corporation that utilizes universal product coding in totaling a retailer customer's purchase. "Retailer" does not include any carnival, as defined in section 29-133 of the general statutes.