
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 452

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

SUMMARY

The bill prohibits knowingly releasing, organizing the release of, or intentionally causing the release of any number of helium or other lighter-than-air gas balloons into the atmosphere. Under current law, releases of less than 10 balloons within a 24-hour period are allowed.

The bill also requires retailers that sell these balloons to attach weights to them so they cannot rise into the atmosphere.

The bill makes violations of both provisions infractions. Under current law, the release of 10 or more helium or lighter-than-air balloons in a 24-hour period is an infraction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Fines

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the amount of the fine. The total current fine for the illegal release of balloons is \$75.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/18/2026)