



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 369

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 452

Senate, April 2, 2026

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF LIGHTER-THAN-AIR 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 Section 26-25c of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2026*):

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] any helium or other
7 lighter-than-air gas balloons in the state.

8 (b) Any retailer that sells or offers for sale any helium or other lighter-
9 than-air gas balloon in the state to any consumer shall not provide such
10 balloon to a consumer unless a weight is attached to such balloon that is
11 sufficient to prevent such balloon from rising into the atmosphere.

12 [(b)] (c) Any violation of [subsection (a) of] this section shall be an

13 infraction.

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

Section 1	October 1, 2026	26-25c
-----------	-----------------	--------

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which (1) prohibits the release of helium or other lighter-than-air gas balloons into the atmosphere and (2) requires retailers that sell these balloons to attach weights to them, results in a minimal potential revenue to the state to the extent new offenses are committed and fines are collected.¹

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and fines collected.

¹ Between FY 22 and FY 25, no offenses were recorded under CGS § 26-25c.

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)