

2021 -- H 5376 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED

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LC001103/SUB A/2
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BALLOONS

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, Carson, Speakman, Cortvriend, Caldwell,
Kislak, Handy, Ruggiero, McEntee, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 05, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 95

4 PROHIBITED RELEASE OF BALLOONS

5 **23-95-1. Prohibited practices.**

6 (a) No person or entity shall intentionally release, intentionally organize the release of, or
7 otherwise intentionally cause the simultaneous release of ten (10) or more balloons inflated with a
8 gas that is lighter than air, except for:

9 (1) A balloon released for scientific or meteorological purposes, on behalf of a
10 governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract;

11 (2) A hot air balloon that is recovered after launching; or

12 (3) A balloon that is released and remains indoors.

13 **23-95-2. Penalties.**

14 Any person or entity who violates this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of one
15 hundred dollars (\$100) for a first offense and up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a second
16 or subsequent offense.

17 **23-95-3. Regulations.**

18 The department of environmental management shall promulgate rules and regulations as
19 may be necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this chapter.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on November 1, 2021.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BALLOONS

1 This act would prohibit the intentional simultaneous release of ten (10) or more balloons
2 inflated with lighter-than-air gas. The prohibition would not apply to: a balloon released for
3 scientific or metrological purposes on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a
4 governmental contract; a hot air balloon that is recovered after launching; or a balloon that is
5 released and remains indoors. A person or entity who violates this provision would be subject to a
6 civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) for a first offense and up to two hundred fifty dollars
7 (\$250) for a second or subsequent offense.

8 This act would take effect on November 1, 2021.

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