

**2021 -- S 0038 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED**

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LC000423/SUB A  
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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: Senators Sosnowski, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Coyne, and Euer

Date Introduced: January 19, 2021

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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

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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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