



The Balloon Council reports...

Summer 2001 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION:

Massachusetts

Representative Kujawski (D) has introduced legislation that would prohibit the release of 10 or more balloons.

- The bill, House Bill 1247, was introduced on January 3, 2001 and was referred to the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture. The measure was heard on May 14, 2001 and the Joint Committee set the legislation aside for study on June 26, 2001.

Representative DiMasi (D) has not reintroduced legislation that would ban the balloons that do not biodegrade within 60 days.

New Jersey

Senator Connors (R-9) and Senator Bark (R-8) introduced legislation that would authorize municipalities to prohibit the release of 5 or more balloons into the environment during a 24-hour period (Senate Bill 1122).

- This bill was referred to the Senate Environment Committee, but has not received committee consideration.
- The New Jersey Legislature meets continuously, and is now in the second year of a two-year legislative cycle.

Legislation that would require warning labels to be placed on helium balloons or

balloon packages, as well as balloon display racks (Senate Bill 1121) was introduced by Senator Connors (R-9) and Senator Bassano (R-21).

- The required label would read: “Release of balloons into the atmosphere may cause serious harm to people and wildlife. Ingestion and entanglement may cause serious injury or death to wildlife.”
- This bill was referred to the Senate Environment Committee. TBC will continue to monitor its status and work to defeat this measure.
- The New Jersey Legislature meets continuously, and is now in the second year of a two-year legislative cycle.

New York

Legislation that would ban the release of 25 or more balloons and would apply to both latex and metallized balloons has been introduced in the Assembly.

- Assembly Bill 299 was introduced on January 3, 2001 and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation. The measure has not received committee consideration.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE:

The TBC website has generated over 117 requests for retailer kits and 37 science kits, while the legislative hotline received more than twenty phone calls. Calls from retailers focused on the following issues:

- Balloon releases
- Use of balloons as signage
- The impact of balloons on the environment
- Balloon industry data for use in business plans
- The biodegradability of balloons
- The banning of balloons due to concerns about latex allergies.

Retailers continue to rely on the TBC balloon hotline to ensure that their balloon practices are conforming to state and local laws.

For more information, please contact:

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