



The Balloon Council reports...

Second Quarter 2002 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION:

Suffolk County, Long Island

Suffolk County Legislator Lynn Nowick (District 13) introduced legislation that would prohibit the release of 5 or more balloons within a 24-hour period.

- The bill, Resolution 1450, was introduced on April 16, 2002 and was referred to the Environment, Land Acquisition and Planning Committee. The measure was heard on April 23, 2002 and was tabled until the next meeting. The measure was on the agenda for May 14, 2002 and June 21, 2002 and was tabled at both meetings. Legislators have been receiving phone calls from children in support of this legislation on a daily basis.
- Representatives from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups have been present to testify in addition to a class of 3rd graders.
- We are currently working with the sponsor to develop a compromise acceptable to both retailers and environmentalists.
- The next committee meeting will be held on July 30, 2002.

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 August 3, 2001.

New York

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

- Assembly Bill 299 was introduced by Assemblyman Grannis on January 3, 2001 and was referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation. The measure was released from the Environmental Committee on February 26, 2002 and then referred to the Codes Committee.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE:

The TBC website has generated over 20 requests for retailer kits and 78 requests for E-mail updates, 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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