



The Balloon Council reports...

First Quarter 2003 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION:

New Jersey

Legislation entitled the "Children's Product Safety Act" has been introduced and stipulates that commercial users may not produce or sell children's products that are unsafe as defined by the bill has been introduced.

- Assembly Bill 3109, sponsored by Assemblywoman Weinberg and Assemblyman Johnson was introduced on December 16, 2002 and was referred to Family, Women and Children's Services Committee.
- With language exempting balloons, the bill was released from committee on February 6, 2003.
- On March 13, 2003, Assembly Bill 3109 received it's second reading in the Assembly and now awaits a House vote.

New York

Legislation that would ban the release of 25 or more balloons inflated with a gas lighter than air within a 24-hour period to reduce litter and protect the marine environment has been introduced.

- Assembly Bill 1850, sponsored by Assemblyman Grannis, was introduced on January 23, 2003 and was referred to the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation.

Legislation that would ban the release of 25 or more balloons inflated with a gas lighter than air within a 24-hour period to reduce litter and protect the marine environment has been introduced.

- Senate Bill 920, sponsored by Senator LaValle, was introduced on January 23, 2003 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation.

Massachusetts

Legislation that would regulate the release of a certain number of balloons into the environment has been introduced.

- House Bill 1536, sponsored by Assemblyman Kujawski, was introduced on January 1, 2003 and was referred to the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.
- House Bill 1536 was filed on January 1, 2003 as House Docket 1614.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE:

The TBC website has generated over 18 requests for retailer kits and 25 requests for E-mail updates, while the legislative hotline received more than 35 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:

The Balloon Council

160 W. State Street

Trenton, NJ

USA 08608

Toll free: 1-800-233-8887

Fax: (609) 989-7491