



The Balloon Council reports...

Fourth Quarter 2003 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION:

New Jersey

Legislation that prohibits the sale or lease of unsafe or recalled children's products and their use by licensed childcare facilities has been introduced.

- Assembly Bill (A-338), sponsored by Assemblywomen Weinberg and Assemblymen Johnson, was introduced and referred to the Assembly Family, Women and Children's Services Committee on January 13, 2004.

Massachusetts

Legislation that would ban the release of 10 or more balloons inflated with a gas lighter than air within a 24-hour period is currently pending.

- House Bill 1536 was heard in the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture. It is now eligible for Executive Session.

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 is currently pending.

- On January 7, 2004, Assembly Bill 1850, after being considered by the Assembly Committee on Codes, was reassigned pursuant to Assembly Rule 3.
- On January 7, 2004, Assembly Bill 1850 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 is currently pending.

- On January 7, 2004, Senate Bill 920, after being considered by the Senate Committee on Rules, was reassigned pursuant to Senate Rule 4.
- On January 7, 2004, Senate Bill 920 was referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation.

California

Legislation has been proposed that would ban the sale or distribution of any balloon filled with a gas lighter than air that is attached to an electrically conductive appurtenance. The balloon must be affixed to a proper weight, have a statement that warns the consumer about risks if the balloon were to come into contact with electrical power lines, and also be attached with printed identification of the manufacture.

This legislation also prohibits persons from releasing balloons outdoors that are made of electrically conductive materials and are filled with a gas lighter than air, as part of a public or civic event, promotional activity, or product advertisement.

The legislation also proposes that any infraction of the measures of the bill are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100. If anyone is guilty of such infractions two times, they shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

- Senate Bill 111, sponsored by Senator Knight, was introduced on February 3, 2003 and was sent to the Committee on Rules for assignment.
- On February 12, 2003, Senate Bill 111 was sent to the Committee on Governmental Organization and a hearing was set for May 6, 2003.
- On April 28, 2003, Senate Bill 111 was sent back from committee with author's amendments, read a second time, amended, and re-referred to committee.
- On May 1, 2003, the first hearing was canceled at the request of the author.
- On December 18, 2003, a hearing was set for January 13, 2004.
- On January 5, 2004, Senate Bill 111 was sent back from committee with author's amendments, read a second time, amended, and re-referred to committee.
- On January 12, 2004, a hearing was set for January 20, 2004, before the Committee on Appropriations.
- On January 13, 2004, Senate Bill 111 was passed, but first to be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations with the recommendation that it be put on the Consent Calendar.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE:

The TBC website has generated 7 requests for retailer kits and 40 requests for email updates, while the legislative hotline and email service received 26 inquiries. Inquiries focused on the following issues:

- Non-latex balloon suppliers;
- Balloon releases;
- Balloon pricing;
- The biodegradability of balloons; and,
- Concerns about balloons and 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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