



The Balloon Council reports...

1st Quarter 2004 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION

California

Legislation has been proposed (S.B. 111) to revise an earlier statute in the California penal code (Penal Code 653.1) that serves to clarify and even eliminate restrictive measures relating to balloons. The recent legislation is part of a large omnibus bill that is sponsored by the California Law Revision Commission and targets various different provisions of California statutes. In the proposed legislation, electrical corporations no longer must report to the Public Utilities Commission every month on electric service disruptions caused by balloons constructed of electrically conductive material.

On January 28, 2004 this bill passed the California Senate and is currently waiting committee assignment in the Assembly.

Maryland

Legislation was introduced and defeated that would have made it a criminal offense to release 20 or more balloons filled with gas lighter than air as part of public or civic event, promotional activity, or product advertisement.

- House Bill 1029 was introduced on February 12, 2004 and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary. On March 15, 2004 this committee gave it an unfavorable report and the bill was defeated.

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 and became eligible for Executive Session.
- On February 24, 2004 the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture set aside House Bill 1536 for study.
- On February 26, 2004 the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture provided an accompanied

study order, H-4539.

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. There has been no movement of this bill since January.

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.
- On March 3, 2004, Assembly Bill 1850 was referred to the Assembly Committee on Codes.

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.
- There has been no movement of Senate Bill 920 since January.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE:

The TBC website has generated 7 requests for retailer kits and 52 requests for email updates, while the legislative hotline and email service received 23 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 and email service to ensure that their balloon practices are conforming to state and local laws.

For more information, please contact:

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