



The Balloon Council reports...

2nd 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.

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.

- On February 26, 2004 House Bill 1536 was accompanied by 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.
- On September 30, 2004 the bill reported out of committee with amendments

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 23, Assembly Bill 1850 was referred to 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.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE

The TBC website has generated 33 requests for retailer kits and 71 requests for email updates, while the legislative hotline and email service received 39 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.