



The Balloon Council reports...

4th Quarter 2004 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION

Massachusetts

Legislation that would ban the release of a certain number of balloons into the environment was introduced. The bills were re-filed from last session as they did not move in the previous legislative cycle.

- In December, 2005 HB 2819 and 2005 SB 976 were re-filed.

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 and now is in 2nd reading before the Assembly.
- On December 13, 2004 the Assembly version of the bill passed, 73-4-0. The Senate version of the bill is still in committee.

New York

Legislation that would ban the release of a certain number of balloons inflated with a gas lighter than air is currently pending. The bills were re-filed from last session as they did not move in the previous legislative cycle.

- In December, 2005 AB 1850 and 2005 SB 920 were re-filed.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE

The Balloon Council website has generated 12 requests for retailer kits and 48 requests for email updates, while the legislative hotline and email service received 29 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.