



The Balloon Council reports...

2nd Quarter 2005 Report

BALLOON RELATED LEGISLATION

Maryland

- Legislation that would ban the release of 20 or more balloons into the environment was introduced.
- House Bill 1241, sponsored by Delegate Barbara A. Frush (D-Calverton) was introduced and referred to the House Environmental Matters Committee on February, 11, 2005.
- The Balloon Council testified before of the House Environmental Matters Committee at the first hearing on March 16, 2005.
- The Balloon Council sent a letter to Delegate McIntosh, Madam Chairman of the Environmental Matters Committee copying all Members of the Environmental Matters Committee encouraging them to give House Bill 1241 an unfavorable report.
- Members of the Environmental Matters Committee will not be making a formal recommendation until the fall.

Massachusetts

Legislation that would ban the release of 10 or more balloons into the environment was introduced. The bills were re-filed from last session as the bill did not move in the previous legislative cycle.

- House Bill 1344, sponsored by Representative Paul Kujawski (D-Worcester) was introduced and referred to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture on January 5, 2005.
- The Balloon Council testified before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture on July 25, 2005.
- The Balloon Council sent a letter to Chairpersons Resor and Smizik, of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture copying all Members of the Committee encouraging them to give House Bill 1344 an unfavorable report.
- The Environment and Natural Resources will not be making a formal recommendation on House Bill 1344 until the fall.

New York

Legislation that would ban the release of 25 or more balloons into the environment was introduced. The bills were re-filed from last session as the bills did not move in the previous legislative cycle.

- Assembly Bill 1373, sponsored by Assemblyman Alexander (Pete) Grannis (D-Manhattan) was introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation on January 19, 2005.
- Assembly Bill 1373 was referred to Assembly Committee on Codes from the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation on May 17, 2005
- Senate Bill 714, sponsored by Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (D-District 1) was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation on January, 19, 2005.

TBC WEBSITE AND HOTLINE

The Balloon Council website has generated 15 requests for retailer kits, and 28 requests for email updates, while the legislative hotline and email service received 42 inquiries. Inquiries focused on the following issues:

- Non-latex balloon suppliers;
- Balloon releases;
- Concerns about balloons and latex allergies
- Balloon distributor referrals
- General Information

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.