

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 26-90—sSB 452**  
*Environment Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF LIGHTER-THAN-AIR  
BALLOONS**

**SUMMARY:** This act makes changes to the law on the release of helium or other lighter-than-air gas filled balloons (“balloons”) into the atmosphere.

The act prohibits individuals, nonprofit organizations, firms, and corporations, including the state and its political subdivisions, from knowingly releasing, or organizing or intentionally causing the release of, balloons into the atmosphere. Prior law allowed these individuals and entities to release up to nine balloons within a 24-hour period. By law, a violation of the balloon release ban is an infraction with a fine of \$75.

Starting January 1, 2027, the act also requires any retailer that sells these balloons, or offers them for sale, to attach weights to them so they cannot rise into the atmosphere. The retailer must do so before giving the balloons to a customer. Failure to do so subjects the retailer to a Department of Consumer Protection civil penalty of \$20 per violation.

Under the act, a “retailer” is any firm, partnership, association, or corporation that uses universal product coding in totaling its customer’s purchase but does not include carnivals. By law, carnivals are transient enterprises that offer portable mechanical amusement rides or devices for public amusement and entertainment purposes but exclude any enterprise that leases inflatable devices for private residential use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026