
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1178

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Environmental Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Jacobsen, Ogden, J. Kohl, G. Cole, R. Fisher, Dunshee, Valle, Appelwick, Pruitt, Johanson and Leonard)

Read first time 02/22/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to the release of lighter-than-air balloons; adding
2 new sections to chapter 70.94 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 prescribing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the release into
6 the atmosphere of large numbers of balloons inflated with lighter-than-
7 air gasses poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly
8 to wildlife and marine animals.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.94 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, it is
12 unlawful for any person to intentionally release, organize the release,
13 or intentionally cause to be released within a twenty-four hour period
14 twenty-five or more balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than
15 air.

16 (2) It is not a violation of this section for a person to release:

17 (a) Balloons on behalf of a government agency or pursuant to a
18 governmental contract for scientific or meteorological purposes;

1 (b) Hot air balloons that are recovered after launching; or
2 (c) Balloons indoors.
3 (3) A violation of this section is a class 1 civil infraction under
4 chapter 7.80 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.94 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Any person may petition a district court to enjoin the release of
8 twenty-five or more balloons in violation of section 2 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
10 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
11 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
12 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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