

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 851

BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG, BAYHAM, COATES, COX, DESHOTEL, DEWITT, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, FREIBERG, GEYMANN, GREEN, DANA HENRY, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JACOB LANDRY, MANDIE LANDRY, MACK, MOORE, ORGERON, RISER, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATOR CATHEY

ENVIRONMENT/LITTERING: Provides relative to intentional littering

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 30:2531(A)(4) and to enact R.S. 30:2531(A)(5), relative to
3 littering; to prevent the intentional release of balloons; to provide for exceptions and
4 penalties; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 30:2531(A)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 30:2531(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2531. Intentional littering prohibited; criminal penalties; simple littering
9 prohibited; civil penalties; special court costs

10 A. Intentional littering.

11 * * *

12 (4) Whoever violates the provisions of this Subsection by intentionally
13 releasing a balloon or by organizing an event that includes a planned, intentional
14 release of twelve or more balloons is subject to the penalties provided in Paragraph
15 (A)(2) of this Subsection.

16 (a) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to the following:

17 (i) Persons under the age of seventeen.

18 (ii) The negligent or unintentional release of a balloon.

- 1 (iii) The release of a balloon indoors.
- 2 (iv) The release of a balloon made of biodegradable or photobiodegradable
- 3 material.
- 4 (v) The release of a balloon for scientific or meteorological purposes by or
- 5 on behalf of a governmental agency, under a governmental contract, or by an
- 6 educational institution.
- 7 (vi) The release of a balloon that is attached to a radio tracking device by a
- 8 person who holds a valid amateur radio operator license.
- 9 (vii) A hot air balloon that is recovered after launch.
- 10 (b) For purposes of this Subsection, the intentional release of multiple
- 11 balloons at a single event, location, or time is a single violation.
- 12 ~~(4)~~(5) A violation of this Subsection shall be cited within one year of the
- 13 date on which law enforcement knew or reasonably should have known of the
- 14 commission of the act.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Abstract: Prohibits the intentional release of balloons and provides for exceptions and penalties.

Present law prohibits intentional littering and provides for penalties.

Proposed law adds the intentional release of balloons to the provisions of present law.

(Amends R.S. 30:2531(A)(4); Adds R.S. 30:2531(A)(5))