

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 581

BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG AND CARRIER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENT: Prohibits releasing inflated balloons outdoors

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 30:2543, relative to the release of balloons outdoors; to prohibit the intentional
3 release of inflated balloons outdoors; to provide for a fine for releasing inflated
4 balloons; to provide for the fines to be directed into the litter abatement account
5 within the Conservation Fund; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 30:2543 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2543. Intentional release of balloons prohibition; fines

9 A. No person over the age of sixteen or entity shall intentionally release,
10 coordinate the release, or otherwise cause the release of a balloon or group of
11 balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air, except for:

12 (1) A balloon released for scientific or meteorological purposes on behalf of
13 a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract.

14 (2) A hot air balloon that is recovered after launching.

15 (3) A balloon that is released and remains indoors.

16 B.(1) Any person or entity that violates this Section shall be subject to a civil
17 penalty of:

18 (a) One hundred fifty dollars for the first violation.

19 (b) Two hundred fifty dollars for the second violation.

20 (c) Five hundred dollars for the third or subsequent violation.

1 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, the release of multiple balloons at one
2 time shall be considered a single violation.

3 (3) Any fines collected pursuant to this Subsection shall be deposited into
4 the litter abatement account which is created within the Conservation Fund through
5 provisions of R.S. 56:10(B)(15).

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)]

HB 581 Original

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Abstract: Prohibits the intentional release of inflated balloons outdoors and provides for a fine for releasing inflated balloons. Further provides for the direction of the fines into the litter abatement account within the Conservation Fund.

Proposed law prohibits the intentional release of balloons inflated with gas that is lighter than air by any person over the age of 16 or entity, except for balloons released for scientific or meteorological purposes, hot air balloons that are recovered after launching, and balloons that are released and remain indoors.

Proposed law creates a civil fine of \$150 for a first violation, \$250 for a second violation, and \$500 for a third or subsequent violation of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the civil fines collected under proposed law be deposited into the litter abatement account within the Conservation Fund.

(Adds R.S. 30:2543)