

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

HB 581

2025 Regular Session

Illg

Proposed law would have prohibited the intentional release of balloons inflated with gas that were 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 were recovered after launching, balloons that were released and remained indoors, and balloons with radio tracking devices released by an amateur radio licensee.

Proposed law would have created 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 would have required the civil fines collected under proposed law be deposited into the litter abatement account within the Conservation Fund.

(Proposed to add R.S. 30:2543)

VETO MESSAGE: "House Bill 581 fines individuals over 16 who intentionally release, coordinate the release, or otherwise cause the release of a balloon or group of balloons capable of floating into the air.

My authority is to see that the laws of this state are faithfully executed. With this authority comes the power to veto bills that are impossible or impractical to execute, and House Bill 581 is such a bill. If signed into law, police departments across the state will be tasked with tracking down locations from where balloons were released based off eyewitness accounts, only to be met-if met at all-with excuses and finger-pointing to avoid meeting the bill's requirements for a fine to be issued. In addition, local governments have recently adopted ordinances of similar bans that meets the needs of their community. This veto preserves a local government's ability to prohibit a release whenever its community finds a true need for one."