STATE OF NEW YORK

2812--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 25, 2021

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the release of certain balloons

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that the release of large quantities of helium-filled balloons result in litter on land and at sea; that sea mammals and other marine life die upon ingesting deflated balloons; that growing public awareness concerning pollution has had the salutary effect of causing the cancellation of several celebratory and promotional launches of balloons; and that placing statutory limitations on the quantity of balloons that may be launched will reduce litter and protect the ocean environment, and is in the public interest.

§ 2. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding two new sections 11-0331 and 71-0929 to read as follows:

§ 11-0331. Release of certain balloons prohibited.

1. No business, firm, corporation or association shall knowingly or intentionally release or cause to be released at any single outdoor celebration, promotional activity, sporting or other public event within a twenty-four hour period more than ten balloons filled with helium or other substance which causes the balloon to rise or float in the atmosphere. This section shall not apply to:

(a) Balloons which are used for the purpose of carrying scientific instrumentation during the performance of an experiment or testing procedure or by a person on behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for scientific or meteorological purposes;

(b) Hot air balloons that are recovered after launching;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(c) Balloons released indoors.

2. Notwithstanding subdivision one of this section, no business, firm, corporation, or association shall knowingly or intentionally cause to be released any balloons if such balloons:

(a) are made from metallized nylon, metallized plastic, or any foil-like substance; or

(b) have any strings, ribbons, or other materials attached to them.

§ 71-0929. Enforcement of section 11-0331 of this chapter.

Any violation of section 11-0331 of this chapter shall be punishable by a civil penalty of five dollars for each balloon released, not to exceed two thousand dollars.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of the foregoing sections of this act on their effective date are authorized to be made on or before such effective date.