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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PROHIBITED RELEASE OF BALLOONS

Introduced By: Representatives Donovan, Fogarty, Carson, Boylan, Speakman, Tanzi,
Potter, Furtado, Kislak, and Casimiro
Date Introduced: January 14, 2026

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-96-2 and 23-96-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-96 entitled
2 "Prohibited Release of Balloons" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-96-2. Penalties.**

4 (a) Any person or entity who violates this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of one
5 hundred dollars (\$100) for a first offense and up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a second
6 or subsequent offense.

7 (b) The department of environmental management, in conjunction with state and local law
8 enforcement, shall have jurisdiction and shall coordinate regarding the enforcement of the
9 provisions of this chapter.

10 **23-96-3. Regulations.**

11 The department of environmental management (the "department") shall promulgate rules
12 and regulations as may be necessary to implement and ~~carry-out~~ enforce the provisions of this
13 chapter. The department may also pursue grants to create a public information campaign to inform
14 the public of the provisions of this chapter and the hazards and damages that may stem from the
15 release of balloons in violation of this chapter.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PROHIBITED RELEASE OF BALLOONS

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- This act would authorize the department of environmental management ("DEM"), in conjunction with state and local law enforcement, to enforce the prohibition on the intentional simultaneous release of ten (10) or more balloons. This act would also authorize the DEM to pursue grants to create a public information campaign regarding the hazards and damages resulting from the release of balloons.
- This act would take effect upon passage.

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