

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 581

BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG, BRAUD, CARRIER, COATES, DEWITT,
DOMANGUE, KERNER, MANDIE LANDRY, AND VENTRELLA

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§2543. Intentional release of balloons prohibition; fines

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

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

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

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

(4) A balloon equipped with radio tracking devices that is released for educational purposes by an individual holding a valid amateur radio operator license.

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

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

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

- 1 (c) Five hundred dollars for the third or subsequent violation.
- 2 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, the release of multiple balloons at one
- 3 time shall be considered a single violation.
- 4 (3) Any fines collected pursuant to this Subsection shall be deposited into
- 5 the litter abatement account which is created within the Conservation Fund through
- 6 provisions of R.S. 56:10(B)(15).

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____