

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**SENATE BILL 20**

Short Title: Prohibiting Certain Mass Balloon Releases. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Hanig (Primary Sponsor).

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

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January 30, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN MASS BALLOON RELEASES.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** Article 52 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
5 a new section to read:

6 "**§ 14-401.28. Release of certain balloons.**

7 (a) Finding. – The General Assembly finds that the release into the atmosphere of  
8 balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a harm to the scenic beauty of the State and a  
9 danger and nuisance to wildlife and marine animals.

10 (b) Offense. – It is unlawful for any person to organize or participate in a balloon release.

11 (c) Penalty. – A violation of this section shall be an infraction and shall be punishable by  
12 a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

13 (d) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

14 (1) Balloon. – A nonporous bag of tough and light material, such as latex or mylar,  
15 filled with helium or another substance that causes the balloons to rise or float  
16 in the atmosphere.

17 (2) Balloon release. – The knowing and intentional release of balloons by a person  
18 or through the operation of a device controlled by a person, except for any of  
19 the following:

20 a. Balloons released by a person on behalf of a government agency or  
21 pursuant to a contract for scientific or meteorological purposes.

22 b. Hot air balloons that are recovered after launching."

23 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to offenses  
24 committed on or after that date.

