

# 2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## SENATE BILL NO. 318

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 5, 2020

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 29.1-556.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to release of balloons; prohibition.*

Patron—Kiggans

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

### Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

#### 1. That § 29.1-556.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

##### § 29.1-556.1. Release of certain balloons prohibited; penalty.

A. It ~~shall be~~ *is* unlawful for any person to knowingly release or cause to be released into the atmosphere within a one-hour period ~~fifty or more balloons which are~~ *than one balloon that is* (i) made of a nonbiodegradable or nonphotodegradable material or any material ~~which that~~ *that* requires more than five minutes' contact with air or water to degrade and (ii) inflated with a substance ~~which that~~ *that* is lighter than air. Any person who violates this section shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed ~~five dollars~~ *\$5* per balloon released above the allowable limit, ~~which~~ *All funds collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Fund established pursuant to § 29.1-101.1.*

B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to *any* (i) ~~balloons~~ *balloon* released (a) by or on behalf of any agency of the Commonwealth, or the United States or (b) pursuant to a contract with the Commonwealth, the United States, or any other state, territory, or government for scientific or meteorological purposes, or (ii) hot air ~~balloons~~ *balloon* that ~~are~~ *is* recovered after launch.

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