

# 2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE BILL NO. 2159

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 12, 2021

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

Patrons—Guy, Carr and Murphy

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake 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; civil penalty; community service.

A. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any individual 13 years of age or older or other person to knowingly intentionally release, discard, or cause to be released into the atmosphere within a one-hour period fifty or more balloons which are (i) or discarded outdoors any balloon made of a nonbiodegradable or nonphotodegradable material or any material which that requires more than five minutes' contact with air or water to degrade and (ii) inflated with a substance which is lighter than air. Any person who violates convicted of a violation of this section shall be is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five dollars of \$25 per balloon released above the allowable limit or discarded, which shall be paid into the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Game Protection Fund established pursuant to § 29.1-101.1 29.1-101.

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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