



Bill No. 19-18
Concerning: Prohibit the Intentional Release of
Helium-Filled Balloons within Frederick
County

Introduced: November 19, 2019
Revised: _____ Draft No. _____
Enacted: _____
Effective: _____
Expires: February 17, 2020
Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-11
Section(s) 8

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Member Kai Hagen

AN ACT to: prohibit, with specific exceptions, the intentional release of helium-filled balloons within Frederick County.

Executive: _____ Date Received: _____

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____

By amending:

Frederick County Code, Chapter, 1-11 Section(s) 8

Other: _____

Boldface

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets]

* * *

Heading or defined term.

Added to existing law.

Deleted from existing law.

Existing law unaffected by bill.

Bill No. 19-18

The County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and appropriate to prohibit, with specific exceptions, the intentional release of helium-filled balloons to protect the waters, animals, and overall environment of Frederick County, as well as wildlife and habitat beyond our county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Frederick County Code be, and they are hereby, amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.

MC Keegan-Ayer, President
County Council of Frederick County,
Maryland

§ 1-11-8.RELEASE OF BALLOONS

(A) DEFINITIONS.

BALLOON. A nonporous bag of tough light material, generally latex or mylar, whether filled or unfilled.

PERSON. Any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other organization or group, however organized.

(B) RELEASE OF BALLOONS.

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to knowingly and intentionally release, organize the release of or intentionally cause to be released into the atmosphere of Frederick County helium-filled balloons.
- (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) Any balloon(s) released by or on behalf of any agency of the State of Maryland, or the United States or pursuant to a contract with the State of Maryland, the United States, or any other state, territory or government for scientific or meteorological purposes; (ii) hot air Balloon(s) that are recovered after launch; or (iii) the negligent and unintentional release of any Balloon(s); or (iv) Pilot balloons (pibal) released by hot air balloon pilots to determine meteorological conditions such as wind speed and direction.

(C) VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. Any person who violates this Section shall be guilty of a civil infraction and subject to a fine of not more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).