

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2159

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Guy

3. **Committee:** Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. **Title:** Release of balloon prohibited; civil penalty.

5. **Summary:** Prohibits any individual 16 years of age or older or other person, including a corporation, from intentionally releasing, discarding, or causing to be released or discarded any nonbiodegradable balloon outdoors and provides that any person convicted of such violation is liable for a civil penalty of \$25 per balloon, to be paid into the Game Protection Fund. Current law prohibits a person from knowingly releasing 50 or more such balloons within an hour and sets the civil penalty at \$5 per balloon, with the proceeds deposited into the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Fund. Provides that if an individual under the age of 16 releases a balloon by arrangement with or at the instruction of an adult, the adult shall be liable for the civil penalty assessed.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that any expenditure impact on the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources. Potential revenue impact resulting from this measure is indeterminate, as it is not possible to estimate the number of violations that will occur. Historically, DWR has not collected any penalties from this law.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Wildlife Resources

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.