

By: Senator(s) Younger

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2015

1 AN ACT TO BAN THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF BALLOONS FILLED WITH
2 LIGHTER-THAN-AIR GASES OUTDOORS; TO ALLOW FOR THE INTENTIONAL
3 RELEASE OF BALLOONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO PROVIDE
4 PENALTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislature finds that the release of
7 balloons into the atmosphere poses a danger and nuisance to the
8 environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals.

9 (2) For the purpose of this section, the term "balloon"
10 means a bag made from rubber, latex, polychloroprene, nylon,
11 mylar, foil or any other material which is or can be filled with
12 lighter-than-air gases.

13 (3) It is unlawful to intentionally release a balloon
14 outdoors, to organize the release of a balloon outdoors or to
15 intentionally cause a balloon to be released outdoors, except
16 under any of the following circumstances:

17 (a) A balloon is released on behalf of a governmental
18 agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for scientific or
19 meteorological purposes;



20 (b) A hot air balloon is recovered after launching; or

21 (c) A balloon is released and remains indoors.

22 (4) Any person who violates this section shall, upon
23 conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined an assessment
24 of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per balloon released.

25 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
26 and after July 1, 2025.

