

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1347 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, FONTANA, SCHWANK AND YUDICHAK,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, providing for sky
3 lantern tethering.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 7518. Sky lantern tethering.

9 (a) Offenses defined.--A person commits an offense if the
10 person:

11 (1) intentionally releases a sky lantern, aerial
12 luminary lantern or similar floating device outdoors unless
13 the sky lantern, aerial luminary lantern or similar floating
14 device is tethered by a weight or other fixed structure
15 connected to the ground; or

16 (2) tethers a sky lantern, aerial luminary lantern or
17 similar floating device and intentionally leaves the sky
18 lantern, aerial luminary lantern or similar floating device

1 unattended.

2 (b) Penalties.--

3 (1) A violation of subsection (a)(1) is a summary
4 offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$500.

5 (2) A violation of subsection (a)(2) in which the sky
6 lantern, aerial luminary lantern or similar floating device
7 is released outdoors beyond the control of the person who
8 tethered it is a summary offense punishable by a fine of not
9 less than \$1,500.

10 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Aerial luminary lantern." A sky lantern.

14 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town
15 or township.

16 "Person." As follows:

17 (1) An individual, corporation, partnership, limited
18 liability company, business trust, association, firm, estate,
19 trust, foundation, municipality or other business or
20 governmental entity.

21 (2) The term does not include the Commonwealth.

22 "Sky lantern." A small hot air balloon made of paper, or
23 similar material, with an opening at the bottom where a small
24 fire is suspended, which causes the lantern to rise in the air.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.