

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 747 Session of  
2023

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, FONTANA AND SCHWANK, JUNE 6, 2023

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JUNE 6, 2023

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  
19 unattended.

1 (b) Penalties.--

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

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

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

12 "Aerial luminary lantern." A sky lantern.

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

15 "Person." As follows:

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

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

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

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