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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 475 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, McNEILL, MARSHALL, PROBST, SANCHEZ,  
SAMUELSON AND CIRESI, MARCH 16, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 16, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, prohibiting the use  
3 of sky lanterns.

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. Prohibited use of sky lanterns.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if the  
10 person releases a sky lantern into the air space above the  
11 surface of the ground within this Commonwealth, unless the sky  
12 lantern is tethered or otherwise restricted from floating  
13 freely.

14 (b) Grading.--A violation of this section is a misdemeanor  
15 of the third degree.

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

1       "Sky lantern." An unmanned and self-contained luminary  
2       device that uses heated air produced by an open flame or another  
3       source to become or remain airborne.

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