

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 02/17/16

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 02/17

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley

Exc: 1 - Thomsen

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Prohibits the release of sky lanterns into Oregon airspace. Makes violation punishable by a maximum fine of \$2,000.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effects of the 2015 fire season in Oregon
- Wildfire risks associated with sky lanterns
- Sky lanterns already prohibited in 29 states

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sky lanterns, also referred to as UFO balloons, mini hot air balloons, Khoom Fay, wish lanterns, and Kongming Lanterns, are small hot air balloons made of paper, with an opening at the bottom where a small fire is suspended. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern, thus lowering its density and causing the lantern to rise into the air. The sky lantern is usually only airborne for as long as the flame stays alight, after which the lantern sinks back to the ground. Currently, these unmanned free-floating devices which contain an open flame or other heat source are regulated under Sections 305 and 308 of the Oregon Fire Code and are prohibited from being released where they can cause an unwanted fire.