

# Assembly Bill 321—Makes Various Changes Relating to Public Safety

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REMARKS BY ASSEMBLYMAN MAX CARTER, ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 12

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

## **Introduction**

Thank you, Chair Marzola. I am Max Carter representing Assembly District 12.

I am the sponsor of Assembly Bill 321, which sets forth certain requirements and restrictions concerning foil balloons that are sold, offered for sale, or manufactured in Nevada.

## **Background Information**

Foil balloons are available in retail stores and are filled with helium or a gas that is lighter than air. Foil balloons are made with metallic films that conduct electricity. When these balloons are not weighted and are released into the air, they may drift into power lines and become entangled. These balloons can cause an electrical fault, which can cause power system outages that can damage power lines, cause blackouts, and start fires that require costly repairs, inconvenience utility customers, and threaten the safety of utility workers and the public.

Recent developments in the balloon manufacturing process can minimize the risk to energy infrastructure and public safety. Modern technology has advanced to allow for the manufacturing of foil balloons that resist conducting electricity. The

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is a professional association and a leading developer of international standard, which is widely recognized by the energy industry. The IEEE is developing a standard that tests whether balloons are safe for overhead electrical power lines across North America. By ensuring that materials used in these balloons do not conduct electricity, this measure mitigates the risks of balloon-caused electrical faults and power outages while continuing to allow manufacturers and retailers to sell celebratory foil balloons.

### **Bill Summary**

This afternoon, Ryan Bellows, Vice President, Government and External Relations, NV Energy, and Devlin Daneshforouz, Government Relations Manager, NV Energy, will walk the Committee through the bill and are available to answer any technical questions.

### **Conclusion**

I urge your support of this legislation, and we are available to answer any questions you may have.

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