
DIGEST

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HB 608 Original

2025 Regular Session

Coates

Abstract: Creates the "Louisiana Atmospheric Protection Act" to prohibit weather modification activities, provides oversight and enforcement, and creates penalties.

Proposed law creates the "Louisiana Atmospheric Protection Act" and provides definitions for "Air National Guard", "artificial intelligence", "atmospheric activity", "cloud-seeding", "entity", "geoengineering", "hazard", "intervention", "machine learning", "physical agent", "pollutant", "pollution", "release", "sheriff", "solar radiation modification", "State Guard", "waste", "weather engineering", and "weather modification".

Proposed law prohibits the government or armed forces from violating the provisions of proposed law and authorized state police or sheriffs to enforce it.

Proposed law provides that if government or armed forces projects are being performed that are prohibited by proposed law, notice must be provided to the entity by La. state police or law enforcement officer that the project is unlawful and to refer the entity to the La. National Guard or State Guard if needed.

Proposed law provides penalties for any entity or individual who engages in a polluting atmospheric intervention or any entity or individual who uses an unmarked or unidentified aircraft or other vehicle or facility to carry out solar radiation modification, stratospheric aerosol injection, geoengineering, weather modification, cloud-seeding, or any other polluting atmospheric intervention.

Proposed law requires a law enforcement officer issue a cease and desist order if he reasonably suspects a violation of proposed law has occurred.

Proposed law provides penalties for violations of proposed law of:

- (1) For a first violation, the offender will receive a mandatory cease and desist order and an optional fine of up to \$1,000 or a six month prison sentence or both.
- (2) For a second or subsequent violation, the offender will receive a fine of at least \$500,000 or up to two years in prison or both.

Proposed law creates the "Atmospheric Protection Fund" and provides for all fines collected under proposed law to be deposited into the fund.

Proposed law provides that each day a violation of proposed law occurs, it is considered a separate violation and that prosecution under proposed law cannot be used as a defense against any other provision of present law.

Present law declares the state's rights to utilize the moisture contained in the clouds and atmosphere within the state boundaries and prohibits anyone from engaging in weather modification without obtaining a permit from the commissioner of the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law defines "weather modification" and "commissioner" as used in present law.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides for the licensing qualifications and evaluations, fees, and penalties for engaging in weather modification.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Adds R.S. 30:2591-2596; Repeals R.S. 37:2201-2208)