
DIGEST

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HB 608 Engrossed

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 the Dept. of Agriculture that the project is unlawful and to refer the entity to the La. Air 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 provides for a civil penalty for violation of proposed law of \$200,000.

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 requirements for communications infrastructure and for independent testing to be performed and submitted to the Dept. of Environmental Quality.

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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment to the original bill:

1. Change penalty from criminal to civil with a fine of \$200,000.
2. Transfer authority to enforce prohibition from state police and law enforcement to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
3. Require radiation evaluation report to be submitted to the Dept. of Environmental Quality rather than the local sheriff.