



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 290
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Young

Reid J. Fleeson, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Prohibits any person from engaging in solar radiation modification (SRM), cloud seeding, or sunlight reflection methods in Ohio, including through the use of an aircraft, balloon, drone, space-based platform, or interoperable ground-based facility.
- Requires the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol or a county sheriff to issue a cease-and-desist order to a person who the Superintendent or sheriff determines is conducting or attempting to conduct SRM, cloud seeding, or sunlight reflection methods.
- Establishes a strict liability offense for engaging in SRM, cloud seeding, or sunlight reflection methods, or violating the Superintendent's or county sheriff's cease-and-desist order, and imposes third degree felony with a 36-month mandatory prison term and a fine of not less than \$500,000.
- Titles the bill as the "Atmosphere Protection Act."

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Prohibiting certain atmospheric activities

The bill prohibits any person from engaging in solar radiation modification (SRM), cloud seeding, or sunlight reflection methods in Ohio, including through the use of an aircraft, balloon, drone, space-based platform, or interoperable ground-based facility.

The bill defines the following terms:

- "Solar radiation modification" means an experiment in the Earth's climatic system involving the release of pollutants that reduces the amount of sunlight absorb by the Earth, including through marine cloud brightening, space-based reflectors, or strategic aerosol injection.

- “Pollutant” means any aerosol; biologic, transbiologic, or genetically modified agent; chaff; metal; radioactive material; acid; alkali; chemical; particulate; contaminant; smart dust; smoke; soot; fume; vapor; air pollutant regulated by Ohio; mechanical vibration or other physical agent; waste, including materials that may be recycled, reconditioned, or reclaimed; solid, liquid, gaseous, or thermal irritant; or artificially produced electric field, magnetic field, electromagnetic field, electromagnetic pulse, sound wave, sound solution, light pollution, microwave, or ionizing or nonionizing radiation.
- “Marine cloud brightening” means enhancing the reflectivity of low-lying marine clouds to reflect more sunlight.
- “Space-based reflectors” means deploying mirrors or other reflective objects in space to reflect sunlight.
- “Stratospheric aerosol injection” means introducing reflective particles into the stratosphere to reflect sunlight.
- “Cloud seeding” means a form of weather modification where a pollutant is released into clouds to induce or enhance precipitation.

Since the bill does not define “sunlight reflection methods,” it is uncertain both what conduct it prohibits and how it differs from SRM.¹

Cease-and-desist orders

The Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol or a county sheriff are required by the bill to issue a cease-and-desist order to a person who the Superintendent or sheriff determines is conducting or attempting to conduct SRM, cloud seeding, or sunlight reflection methods. A person is prohibited from failing to comply with such a cease-and-desist order.²

Penalties

A person who violates the bill’s prohibitions is guilty of a third degree felony. The court must impose a mandatory prison term of 36 months and a fine of not less than \$500,000. A violation of the bill’s prohibitions is a strict liability offense for which no degree of culpability is required.³

Bill title

The bill is titled the “Atmosphere Protection Act.”⁴

¹ R.C. 2917.43(A) and (B).

² R.C. 2917.43(C).

³ R.C. 2917.43(D) and (E); R.C. 2901.20 and 2901.21, not in the bill.

⁴ Section 2.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-20-25
