

Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

H.B. 290 136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for H.B. 290's Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Young

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

• The bill's weather modification prohibitions are unlikely to have a discernible fiscal effect on the state or local criminal justice systems.

Detailed Analysis

The bill: (1) 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, and (2) requires the Superintendent of the Ohio 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 one of the bill's prohibited activities. A violation of the bill's prohibited activities is a third degree felony and the court is required to impose a mandatory 36-month prison term and a fine of not less than \$500,000.¹

Based on conversations with state and local law enforcement representatives, charges resulting from violations of the bill's prohibitions are expected to be relatively rare. However, to the extent that violations do occur and come to the attention of the Patrol or a county sheriff, there would presumably be some time and effort spent on behalf of the law enforcement agency to investigate the incident, determine jurisdiction, and issue a cease-and-desist order, if appropriate. The bill is not expected to have a discernible impact on the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or local criminal justice systems.

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¹ The fine would generally be retained by the county unless the violator was cited by the Patrol, in which case it would be credited to the state Security, Investigations, and Policing Fund (Fund 8400).