

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 1154

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a prohibition on weather and climate modification activities by a governmental entity.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 301, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 301.002 to read as follows:

Sec. 301.002. WEATHER OR CLIMATE MODIFICATION BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY PROHIBITED. (a) In this section, "geoengineering" means the intentional injection, release, or dispersion, by any means, of chemicals, chemical compounds, substances, or apparatus into the atmosphere with the express purpose of affecting temperature, weather, or the intensity of sunlight.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a governmental entity may not engage in geoengineering, weather modification and control, or cloud-seeding operations.

SECTION 2. Section 301.057, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 301.057. [~~CONTRACTS AND~~] COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. [~~(a)~~] The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation may cooperate with [~~public or~~] private agencies to promote the purposes of this chapter.

~~[(b) The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation may enter into cooperative agreements with the United States or any of~~

1 ~~its agencies, with counties and municipalities of this state, or~~
2 ~~with any private or public agencies for conducting weather~~
3 ~~modification or cloud-seeding operations.~~

4 ~~[(c) The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation may~~
5 ~~represent the state, counties, municipalities, and public and~~
6 ~~private agencies in contracting with private concerns for the~~
7 ~~performance of weather modification or cloud-seeding operations.]~~

8 SECTION 3. Section 301.102(a), Agriculture Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (a) The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation by
11 rule, to the extent it considers exemptions practical, shall
12 provide for exempting the following activities from the license and
13 permit requirements of this chapter:

14 (1) research, development, and experiments conducted
15 by private ~~[state and federal agencies,]~~ institutions of higher
16 learning~~[,]~~ and bona fide nonprofit research organizations;

17 (2) laboratory research and experiments;

18 (3) activities of an emergent nature for protection
19 against fire, frost, sleet, or fog; and

20 (4) activities normally conducted for purposes other
21 than inducing, increasing, decreasing, or preventing precipitation
22 or hail.

23 SECTION 4. The following provisions of the Agriculture
24 Code are repealed:

25 (1) Section 301.056;

26 (2) Section 301.058(b); and

27 (3) Chapter 302.

1 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2 a contract entered into on or after the effective date of this Act.
3 A contract entered into before the effective date of this Act is
4 governed by the law in effect on the date the contract was entered
5 into, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.