

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/SB 56 — Geoengineering and Weather Modification Activities

by Rules Committee; Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and Senators Garcia, Leek, Yarborough, and Gruters

The bill prohibits geoengineering and weather modification activities and provides such activities are a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years' imprisonment and fines of up to \$100,000, except aircraft operators and controllers who are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000 and five years' imprisonment. All funds collected must be deposited in the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish a dedicated e-mail address and online form to allow people to report suspected geoengineering and weather modification activities. DEP must investigate reports warranting further review and must refer reports to the Department of Health or the Division of Emergency Management when appropriate.

The bill provides that, beginning October 1, 2025, publicly owned airports must report monthly to the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) any aircraft equipped for geoengineering or weather modification activities. DOT may not expend state funds to support public airports that do not comply.

The bill also removes DEP's authority to conduct studies, research, experimentation, and evaluations in the field of weather modification.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 28-9; House 82-28