



26 | report such activity; providing construction;  
27 | requiring the Department of Environmental Protection  
28 | to establish a method for the intake and screening of  
29 | such reports; requiring the department to investigate  
30 | certain reports; requiring the department to refer  
31 | reports of observed violations to the Department of  
32 | Health or the Division of Emergency Management, under  
33 | certain circumstances; requiring the department to  
34 | adopt rules; creating s. 403.4115, F.S.; defining  
35 | terms; requiring an operator of public infrastructure  
36 | to report certain information monthly to the  
37 | Department of Transportation; prohibiting the  
38 | department from expending funds to support certain  
39 | projects or programs; requiring the department to  
40 | submit a report to specified entities; requiring the  
41 | department to incorporate reporting guidelines in  
42 | certain grant agreements; authorizing the department  
43 | to adopt rules; amending ss. 253.002, 373.026,  
44 | 373.1501, 373.4598, and 373.470, F.S.; conforming  
45 | cross-references and provisions to changes made by the  
46 | act; making technical changes; providing an effective  
47 | date.

48 |  
49 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
50 |

51           **Section 1.** Sections 403.281, 403.291, 403.301, 403.311,  
52 403.321, 403.331, 403.341, 403.351, 403.361, 403.371, 403.381,  
53 403.391, and 403.401, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

54           **Section 2. Section 403.411, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
55 **to read:**

56           403.411 Geoengineering and weather modification activities  
57 prohibited; penalty.—

58           (1) The injection, release, or dispersion, by any means,  
59 of a chemical, a chemical compound, a substance, or an apparatus  
60 into the atmosphere within the borders of this state for the  
61 express purpose of affecting the temperature, weather, climate,  
62 or intensity of sunlight is prohibited.

63           (2) Any person, including any public or private  
64 corporation, who conducts ~~conducting~~ a geoengineering or weather  
65 modification activity in violation of this section commits  
66 operation without first having procured a license, or who shall  
67 make a false statement in his or her application for license, or  
68 who shall fail to file any report or reports as required by this  
69 act, or who shall conduct any weather modification operation  
70 after revocation or suspension of his or her license, or who  
71 shall violate any other provision of this act, shall be guilty  
72 of a felony ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~second~~ degree, punishable  
73 as provided in s. 775.082 and by a fine not exceeding \$200,000;  
74 ~~or s. 775.083; and,~~ if a corporation, the officers, directors,  
75 or employees of the corporation commit shall be guilty of a

76 felony ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~second~~ degree, punishable by a  
77 fine not exceeding \$200,000; and, if an aircraft operator or  
78 controller, such person commits a felony of the third degree,  
79 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 and by a fine not exceeding  
80 \$5,000 and up to 5 years in prison as provided in s. 775.083.

81 Each such violation is ~~shall be~~ a separate offense.

82 (3) All moneys collected pursuant to this section must be  
83 deposited in the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund and used only  
84 for purposes of air pollution control pursuant to this chapter.

85 (4) (a) Any person who observes a geoengineering or weather  
86 modification activity conducted in violation of this section may  
87 report the observed violation to the department online or by  
88 telephone, mail, or e-mail.

89 (b) The department shall establish an e-mail address and  
90 an online form for persons to report observed violations  
91 pursuant to this subsection. The department shall make the e-  
92 mail address and online form publicly accessible on its website.

93 (c) The department shall establish a method for intake and  
94 screening of the reports made pursuant to this subsection. The  
95 department shall investigate any report that warrants further  
96 review to determine whether there are violations of this  
97 section.

98 (d) The department shall refer reports of observed  
99 violations made pursuant to this subsection to the Department of  
100 Health or the Division of Emergency Management, if appropriate.

101 (e) The department shall adopt any rules that are  
102 necessary to implement this subsection.

103 **Section 3. Section 403.4115, Florida Statutes, is created**  
104 **to read:**

105 403.4115 Reporting on geoengineering and weather  
106 modification activities on public infrastructure; penalty.—

107 (1) As used in this section, the term:

108 (a) "Aircraft" means a powered or unpowered machine or  
109 device capable of atmospheric flight, except a parachute or  
110 other such device used primarily as safety equipment.

111 (b) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

112 (c) "Public infrastructure" means any public-use airport  
113 as that term is defined in s. 332.004.

114 (2) Beginning on October 1, 2025, all operators of public  
115 infrastructure shall report monthly to the department, using a  
116 method determined by the department:

117 (a) The physical presence of any aircraft on public  
118 property, including any public infrastructure, equipped with any  
119 part, component, device, or the like which may be used to  
120 support the intentional emission, injection, release, or  
121 dispersion of air contaminants into the atmosphere within the  
122 borders of this state when such emissions occur for the express  
123 purpose of affecting temperature, weather, climate, or the  
124 intensity of sunlight.

125 (b) The landing, takeoff, stopover, or refueling of an

126 aircraft equipped with the components outlined in paragraph (a)  
127 on the physical location of the public infrastructure.

128 (3) The department may not expend any state funds as  
129 described in s. 215.31 to support a project or program located  
130 on or in support of public infrastructure which is not in  
131 compliance with this section until such time as the entity  
132 becomes compliant with this section.

133 (4) Upon receipt of the reports required in subsection  
134 (2), the department shall submit aggregated reports to the  
135 Department of Environmental Protection and the applicable state  
136 law enforcement agency in support of the enforcement of s.  
137 403.411.

138 (5) The department shall incorporate reporting guidelines  
139 in all grant agreements for public use airports which receive  
140 state funds as described in s. 215.31.

141 (6) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement  
142 this section.

143 **Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 253.002, Florida**  
144 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

145 253.002 Department of Environmental Protection, water  
146 management districts, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission,  
147 and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; duties with  
148 respect to state lands.—

149 (1) The Department of Environmental Protection shall  
150 perform all staff duties and functions related to the

151 acquisition, administration, and disposition of state lands,  
152 title to which is or will be vested in the Board of Trustees of  
153 the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. However, upon the effective  
154 date of rules adopted pursuant to s. 373.427, a water management  
155 district created under s. 373.069 shall perform the staff duties  
156 and functions related to the review of any application for  
157 authorization to use board of trustees-owned submerged lands  
158 necessary for an activity regulated under part IV of chapter 373  
159 for which the water management district has permitting  
160 responsibility as set forth in an operating agreement adopted  
161 pursuant to s. 373.046(4). The Department of Agriculture and  
162 Consumer Services shall perform the staff duties and functions  
163 related to the review of applications and compliance with  
164 conditions for use of board of trustees-owned submerged lands  
165 under authorizations or leases issued pursuant to ss. 253.67-  
166 253.75 and 597.010 and the acquisition, administration, and  
167 disposition of conservation easements pursuant to s. 570.71.  
168 Unless expressly prohibited by law, the board of trustees may  
169 delegate to the department any statutory duty or obligation  
170 relating to the acquisition, administration, or disposition of  
171 lands, title to which is or will be vested in the board of  
172 trustees. The board of trustees may also delegate to any water  
173 management district created under s. 373.069 the authority to  
174 take final agency action, without any action on behalf of the  
175 board, on applications for authorization to use board of

176 trustees-owned submerged lands for any activity regulated under  
177 part IV of chapter 373 for which the water management district  
178 has permitting responsibility as set forth in an operating  
179 agreement adopted pursuant to s. 373.046(4). This water  
180 management district responsibility under this subsection is  
181 ~~shall be~~ subject to the department's general supervisory  
182 authority pursuant to s. 373.026(6) ~~s. 373.026(7)~~. The board of  
183 trustees may also delegate to the Department of Agriculture and  
184 Consumer Services the authority to take final agency action on  
185 behalf of the board on applications to use board of trustees-  
186 owned submerged lands for any activity for which that department  
187 has responsibility pursuant to ss. 253.67-253.75, 369.25,  
188 369.251, and 597.010. However, the board of trustees shall  
189 retain the authority to take final agency action on establishing  
190 any areas for leasing, new leases, expanding existing lease  
191 areas, or changing the type of lease activity in existing  
192 leases. Upon issuance of an aquaculture lease or other real  
193 property transaction relating to aquaculture, the Department of  
194 Agriculture and Consumer Services must send a copy of the  
195 document and the accompanying survey to the Department of  
196 Environmental Protection. The board of trustees may also  
197 delegate to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission the  
198 authority to take final agency action, without any action on  
199 behalf of the board, on applications for authorization to use  
200 board of trustees-owned submerged lands for any activity



201 regulated under ss. 369.20 and 369.22.

202 **Section 5. Subsection (6) of section 373.026, Florida**  
 203 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

204 373.026 General powers and duties of the department.—The  
 205 department, or its successor agency, shall be responsible for  
 206 the administration of this chapter at the state level. However,  
 207 it is the policy of the state that, to the greatest extent  
 208 possible, the department may enter into interagency or  
 209 interlocal agreements with any other state agency, any water  
 210 management district, or any local government conducting programs  
 211 related to or materially affecting the water resources of the  
 212 state. All such agreements shall be subject to the provisions of  
 213 s. 373.046. In addition to its other powers and duties, the  
 214 department shall, to the greatest extent possible:

215 ~~(6) Conduct, either independently or in cooperation with~~  
 216 ~~any person or governmental agency, a program of study, research,~~  
 217 ~~and experimentation and evaluation in the field of weather~~  
 218 ~~modification.~~

219 **Section 6. Subsections (1) and (9) of section 373.1501,**  
 220 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

221 373.1501 South Florida Water Management District as local  
 222 sponsor.—

223 (1) As used in this section and s. 373.026(7) ~~s.~~  
 224 ~~373.026(8)~~, the term:

225 (a) "C-111 Project" means the project identified in the

226 Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project, Real Estate  
 227 Design Memorandum, Canal 111, South Miami-Dade County, Florida.

228 (b) "Department" means the Department of Environmental  
 229 Protection.

230 (c) "District" means the South Florida Water Management  
 231 District.

232 (d) "Kissimmee River Restoration Project" means the  
 233 project identified in the Project Cooperation Agreement between  
 234 the United States Department of the Army and the South Florida  
 235 Water Management District dated March 22, 1994.

236 (e) "Pal-Mar Project" means the Pal-Mar (West Jupiter  
 237 Wetlands) lands identified in the Save Our Rivers 2000 Land  
 238 Acquisition and Management Plan approved by the South Florida  
 239 Water Management District on September 9, 1999 (Resolution 99-  
 240 94).

241 (f) "Project" means the Central and Southern Florida  
 242 Project.

243 (g) "Project component" means any structural or  
 244 operational change, resulting from the restudy, to the Central  
 245 and Southern Florida Project as it existed and was operated as  
 246 of January 1, 1999.

247 (h) "Restudy" means the Comprehensive Review Study of the  
 248 Central and Southern Florida Project, for which federal  
 249 participation was authorized by the federal Water Resources  
 250 Development Acts of 1992 and 1996 together with related

251 congressional resolutions and for which participation by the  
252 South Florida Water Management District is authorized by this  
253 section. The term includes all actions undertaken pursuant to  
254 the aforementioned authorizations which will result in  
255 recommendations for modifications or additions to the Central  
256 and Southern Florida Project.

257 (i) "Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed  
258 Project" means the area described in the Critical Restoration  
259 Project Contract C-9906 Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem  
260 Watershed Project Addition/Imperial River Flowway and approved  
261 by the South Florida Water Management District on August 12,  
262 1999.

263 (j) "Water Preserve Areas" means those areas located only  
264 within Palm Beach and Broward counties that are designated as  
265 Water Preserve Areas, as approved by the South Florida Water  
266 Management District Governing Board on September 11, 1997, and  
267 shall also include all of those lands within Cell II of the East  
268 Coast Buffer in Broward County as delineated in the boundary  
269 survey prepared by Stoner and Associates, Inc., dated January  
270 31, 2000, SWFWMD #10953.

271 (k) "Ten Mile Creek Project" means the Ten Mile Creek  
272 Water Preserve Area identified in the Central and Southern  
273 Florida Ecosystem Critical Project Letter Report dated April 13,  
274 1998.

275 (9) Final agency action with regard to any project

276 component subject to s. 373.026(7)(b) ~~s. 373.026(8)(b)~~ shall be  
 277 taken by the department. Actions taken by the district pursuant  
 278 to subsection (5) may ~~shall~~ not be considered final agency  
 279 action. A ~~Any~~ petition for formal proceedings filed pursuant to  
 280 ss. 120.569 and 120.57 requires ~~shall require~~ a hearing under  
 281 the summary hearing provisions of s. 120.574, which is ~~shall be~~  
 282 mandatory. The final hearing under this section must ~~shall~~ be  
 283 held within 30 days after receipt of the petition by the  
 284 Division of Administrative Hearings.

285 **Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (10) of section**  
 286 **373.4598, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

373.4598 Water storage reservoirs.—

(10) FUNDING.—

(c) Notwithstanding s. 373.026(7)(b) ~~s. 373.026(8)(b)~~ or  
 any other provision of law, the use of state funds is authorized  
 for the EAA reservoir project.

292 **Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section**  
 293 **373.470, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

373.470 Everglades restoration.—

(6) DISTRIBUTIONS FROM SAVE OUR EVERGLADES TRUST FUND.—

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) and for  
 funds appropriated for debt service, the department shall  
 distribute funds in the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund to the  
 district in accordance with a legislative appropriation and s.  
373.026(7)(b) ~~s. 373.026(8)(b)~~. Distribution of funds to the

301 district from the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund shall be  
302 equally matched by the cumulative contributions from the  
303 district by fiscal year 2019-2020 by providing funding or  
304 credits toward project components. The dollar value of in-kind  
305 project design and construction work by the district in  
306 furtherance of the comprehensive plan and existing interest in  
307 public lands needed for a project component are credits towards  
308 the district's contributions.

309 **Section 9.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.