

**DRAFT ONLY  
NOT APPROVED FOR  
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Cloud seeding moratorium.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands &  
Water Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to aeronautics; requiring a moratorium on  
2 cloud seeding and weather modification as specified;  
3 providing legislative findings; requiring studies and  
4 reports; providing criminal penalties; making conforming  
5 amendments; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-11-2201 through 35-11-2205 are  
10 created to read:

11

12

ARTICLE 22

1 WYOMING CLOUD SEEDING MORATORIUM AND BASELINE ACT

2

3 **35-11-2201. Short title.**

4

5 This act is known and may be cited as the "Wyoming Cloud  
6 Seeding Moratorium and Baseline Act."

7

8 **35-11-2202. Legislative findings.**

9

10 (a) The legislature finds and declares that:

11

12 (i) Cloud seeding has been conducted in Wyoming  
13 for decades with the stated purpose of increasing  
14 precipitation and snowpack;

15

16 (ii) Scientific studies of cloud seeding show,  
17 at best, mixed results. Some studies indicate small  
18 increases in localized precipitation, while others show  
19 little to no measurable benefit;

20

21 (iii) Evidence suggests that cloud seeding may  
22 redistribute precipitation rather than increase total  
23 regional water supply;

1

2 (iv) Wyoming's water is a crucial public  
3 resource, vital to agriculture, municipalities, tribal  
4 nations and downstream states under interstate compacts;

5

6 (v) Without baseline measurements of unseeded  
7 years where cloud seeding operations did not occur in  
8 Wyoming, Wyoming cannot accurately determine whether cloud  
9 seeding programs provide measurable net benefits.

10

11 **35-11-2203. Moratorium on cloud seeding.**

12

13 (a) Notwithstanding any state or federal law, no  
14 person shall conduct cloud seeding or weather modification  
15 operations, as defined by W.S. 9-1-906, in Wyoming for a  
16 period of ten (10) consecutive water years beginning  
17 October 1, 2026.

18

19 \*\*\*\*\*  
20 \*\*\*\*\*

21 **STAFF COMMENT**

22

23 The original proposed language for this bill draft  
24 indicated a moratorium that was to start on July 1, 2026.  
25 Water years generally occur between October 1-September 30,  
26 and the date in the subsection above was written to reflect  
27 that.

1  
2 \*\*\*\*\*  
3 \*\*\*\*\*  
4

5 (b) During the moratorium period, the department of  
6 environmental quality, in consultation with the state  
7 engineer, shall collect and evaluate baseline data on the  
8 following:

- 9
- 10 (i) Precipitation and snow-water equivalents;
- 11
- 12 (ii) Streamflow and reservoir inflows;
- 13
- 14 (iii) Geographic distribution of precipitation  
15 across seeded basins in neighboring western states and  
16 unseeded basins;
- 17
- 18 (iv) Impacts to agriculture, municipalities,  
19 tribal lands and downstream water obligations.

20

21 **35-11-2204. Studies; reporting requirements.**

22

23 (a) The department of environmental quality may  
24 contract with independent experts, including the University

1 of Wyoming, the national center for atmospheric research  
2 and any similar institutions to conduct an independent  
3 study of cloud seeding impacts compared to baseline  
4 conditions. The study shall commence not later than October  
5 1, 2026.

6  
7 (b) The department of environmental quality shall  
8 submit a preliminary report on the study required by  
9 subsection (a) of this section to the joint agriculture,  
10 state and public lands and water resources interim  
11 committee not later than October 1, 2028.

12  
13 (c) A final report on the study required by  
14 subsection (a) of this section, including recommendations  
15 on whether Wyoming should reinstate, modify or terminate  
16 cloud seeding and weather modification programs, shall be  
17 submitted by the department of environmental quality to the  
18 joint agriculture, state and public lands and water  
19 resources interim committee and the legislature not later  
20 than December 31, 2035.

21  
22 \*\*\*\*\*

23 \*\*\*\*\*

24 **STAFF COMMENT**

1 The Committee may wish to consider adding an appropriation  
2 for the Department of Environmental Quality to fund the  
3 study required by this act. The cost of the study will  
4 likely be considerable.

5  
6 \*\*\*\*\*  
7 \*\*\*\*\*  
8

9 35-11-2205. Unauthorized cloud seeding prohibited.

10  
11 (a) Any person conducting cloud seeding or weather  
12 modification without authorization during the moratorium  
13 period required by W.S. 35-11-2203 commits a misdemeanor  
14 punishable by a fine of not more than fifty thousand  
15 dollars (\$50,000.00) per occurrence.

16  
17 (b) Each day of unauthorized activity prohibited  
18 under this chapter constitutes a separate criminal offense.

19  
20 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-1-907 by creating a new subsection  
21 (e), 9-1-908 and 9-1-909 are amended to read:

22  
23 9-1-907. Weather modification; permit required;  
24 issuance; duration; fee; report of activities; penalties  
25 for noncompliance.

1       (e) In accordance with W.S. 35-11-2203(a), no permit  
2 shall be issued under this section until on or after  
3 October 1, 2036.

4  
5       **9-1-908. Weather modification; authority to receive**  
6 **and expend funds; purposes.**

7  
8 Subject to the requirements of W.S. 35-11-2201 through 35-  
9 11-2205, the state engineer is authorized to receive in the  
10 name of the state any funds offered or available from any  
11 source, and to expend such funds for the expenses of  
12 administering this act and for the encouragement of  
13 experimentation in weather modification by the University  
14 of Wyoming or any other appropriate state or public agency,  
15 either by direct grant, by contract or other cooperative  
16 means.

17  
18       **9-1-909. Weather modification; state not liable for**  
19 **activities of private persons or groups.**

20  
21 Subject to the requirements of W.S. 35-11-2201 through 35-  
22 11-2205, nothing in W.S. 9-1-905 through 9-1-909 shall be  
23 construed to impose or accept any liability or

1 responsibility on the part of the state, the board, or any  
2 state officials or employees, for any weather modification  
3 activities of any private person or group, nor to affect in  
4 any way any contractual, tortious, or other legal rights,  
5 duties or liabilities between any private persons or  
6 groups.

7

8       **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

9

10 (END)