

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -8 A11 51

SENATE
S. No. 576

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Weather modification is the act of manipulating or altering certain aspects of the environment to produce desirable changes in weather.

A good example of weather modification or control is the rain dispersal operation undertaken by China for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The Beijing Municipal Meteorological Bureau fired a total of 1,104 rain dispersal rockets within an eight-hour period prior to and during the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in 8 August 2008. The rockets were launched from 21 sites, and may have prevented the ceremonies from receiving rainfall in the range of 25 to 100 millimeters of rain.

In the Philippines, cloud seeding is undertaken by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) during times of drought. In 2007, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P28 million for cloud seeding operations to reduce damage from a dry spell that was hurting Luzon. Cloud seeding activities are also undertaken in the country by private firms.

This bill requires persons undertaking weather modification activities to provide information on such activities.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fifteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

13 JUL -8 AM 51

SENATE
S. No. 576

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 REQUIRING INFORMATION ON WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Weather Modification
4 Information Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – In this Act, the term

6 (a) “Administrator” refers to the Administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric,
7 Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);

8 (b) “weather modification activity” includes any action designed or intended to produce,
9 by physical or chemical means, changes in the composition or dynamics of the
10 atmosphere for the purpose of increasing, decreasing or redistributing precipitation,
11 decreasing or suppressing hail or lightning, or dissipating fog or cloud.

12 SECTION 3. *Information.* – (a) Where any person proposes to engage in weather
13 modification activities in any part of the Philippines, that person shall, in such form and manner
14 as may be prescribed, submit to the Administrator such information as may be prescribed
15 respecting that person and the weather modification activities in which it is proposed to engage.

16 (b) Before commencing any weather modification activity, the person proposing to carry
17 out the activity shall inform the Administrator in writing of

18 (i) the date and time when and the place where the activity is to be carried out;

- 1 (ii) the names and addresses of the persons by and for whom the activity is to be carried
2 out;
- 3 (iii) the purpose of the activity;
- 4 (iv) the equipment, materials and method to be used; and
- 5 (v) the geographic area that may be affected.

6 SECTION 4. *Records and Reports.* – (a) Every person who carries out any weather
7 modification activity shall, in such form and manner as may be prescribed, maintain a daily
8 record of the activity, in which shall be included detailed information relating to

- 9 (i) the location and operation of any equipment used;
- 10 (ii) any meteorological observations made in the geographic area affected or intended to
11 be affected by the activity; and
- 12 (iii) the chemical nature, physical properties, and quantities of any substances emitted
13 into the atmosphere for the purposes of weather modification.

14 (b) The person who carries out any weather modification activity shall within fifteen days
15 from the end of the month in which the activity was carried out, submit to the Administrator a
16 report specifying

- 17 (i) the date when the activity was carried out;
- 18 (ii) the nature and scope of the activity;
- 19 (iii) any meteorological observations that were made; and
- 20 (iv) such other information and observations relevant to the activity as may be specified
21 by the Administrator or an authorized representative of the Administrator.

22 (c) Any person who has custody of a record referred to in paragraph (a) shall, at such
23 reasonable times as may be specified by the Administrator or an authorized representative of the
24 Administrator, make that record available for inspection by the Administrator or the
25 representative.

1 SECTION 5. *Disclosure.* – Any information obtained by the Administrator or an
2 authorized representative of the Administrator pursuant to this Act may be made public or made
3 available on request to any member of the public.

4 SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
5 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Science and Technology shall promulgate the rules and
6 regulations to implement this Act.

7 SECTION 7. *Offense and Punishment.* – (a) Any person who fails to comply with any
8 provision of this Act is guilty of an offense and liable on conviction by summary proceedings to
9 a fine not exceeding ten thousand pesos or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months,
10 or both.

11 (b) Where any corporation commits an offense under this Act, any officer, director, or
12 agent of the corporation who directed, authorized, assented to, or acquiesced in the commission
13 of the offense is a party to and guilty of the offense and is liable on conviction by summary
14 proceedings to the punishment provided by subsection (a) whether or not the corporation has
15 been prosecuted or convicted.

16 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
17 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
18 valid and subsisting.

19 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or
20 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
21 modified accordingly.

22 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
23 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,