

CHAPTER 278

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 4087]

EMERGENCY CLOUD SEEDING

AN ACT Relating to cloud seeding; adding a new section to chapter 43.21C RCW; adding new sections to chapter 43.37 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The legislature finds and declares that when prolonged lack of precipitation or shortages of water supply in the state cause severe hardships affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state, a program to increase precipitation is occasionally needed for the generation of hydroelectric power, for domestic purposes, and to alleviate hardships created by the threat of forest fires and shortages of water for agriculture. Cloud seeding has been demonstrated to be such a program of weather modification with increasing scientific certainty.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The director of ecology may establish by rule under chapter 34.04 RCW a program of emergency cloud seeding. The director may include in these rules standards and guidelines for determining the situations which warrant cloud seeding and the means to be used for cloud seeding.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Upon a proclamation of a state of emergency, related to a lack of precipitation or a shortage of water supply, by the governor under RCW 43.06.210, the department shall exempt a licensee from the requirements of RCW 43.37.110(2) and (6) and RCW 43.37.140.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. There is added to chapter 43.21C RCW a new section to read as follows:

This chapter does not apply to actions authorized by sections 2 and 3 of this act which are undertaken during a state of emergency declared by the governor under RCW 43.06.210.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall be added to chapter 43.37 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate April 2, 1981.

Passed the House April 21, 1981.

Approved by the Governor May 18, 1981.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 18, 1981.