



## HB18-1147

**SHORT TITLE:** Sunset Process Weather Modification

**LONG TITLE:** Concerning the continuation of the regulation of people who modify the weather, and, in connection therewith, implementing the sunset review recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies

**SPONSORS:** Reps. Ginal and Ransom/Sen. Coram

**COMMITTEES:** House Committees – Health, Insurance, & Environment; Appropriations. Senate Committees – Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy; Appropriations.

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL:** To continue authorization for the issuance of permits for weather modification in Colorado pursuant to the Sunset Review until the year 2033.

**PROPONENTS OF THE BILL:** Dept. of Natural Resources; users of the weather modification system (cloud seeding) to increase precipitation

**POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS:** DNR; water conservancy and conservation districts; ski areas

**BACKGROUND:** The Colorado Water Conservation Board in the Department of Natural Resources issues permits to qualified weather modification operations. Weather modification, commonly referred to as cloud seeding, is conducted from November through March. All of the programs currently operating in Colorado are ground-based and designed to enhance snowpack. There are more than 40 entities that participate in cloud seeding including local governments, water districts, and ski areas.

**Is this bill necessary this year?** Yes. The Sunset Review and recommendations are carried out on an established statutory schedule. Absent a recommendation for continuance, the program would be required to wrap up the following year (2019), leaving no oversight or regulation of persons wishing to carry out cloud seeding to increase precipitation.

**How does the bill change current law?** The bill extends the weather modification permit program until 2033 and repeals a provision that prohibits weather modification that benefits another state if the other state prohibits weather modification that benefits Colorado.

**Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system?** No

**How is the bill implemented?** The current program will continue to be carried out under existing regulations.

**Practical considerations:** If Colorado experiences a drought, will additional permits be sought and the workload increase?

**Fiscal Impact:** Approximately \$13,000 in expenses will be offset by \$13,000 in revenues from the permit fees