

# SENATE BILL 911

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By: **Senator Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Weather Engineering – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from injecting, releasing, or dispersing a chemical  
4 compound, substance, or apparatus into the atmosphere within the State for the  
5 purpose of affecting the temperature, weather, climate, or intensity of the sunlight;  
6 requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Maryland  
7 Department of Emergency Management, to establish a method for evaluating a  
8 report of a certain weather engineering activity and investigate a report under  
9 certain circumstances; and generally relating to weather engineering.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Environment

12 Section 5–1501 through 5–1504 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 15. Weather  
13 Engineering”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Environment**

19 **SUBTITLE 15. WEATHER ENGINEERING.**

20 **5–1501.**

21 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “WEATHER ENGINEERING ACTIVITY” MEANS AN ACTIVITY**  
22 **THAT IS PROHIBITED UNDER § 5–1502 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

23 **5–1502.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1       A PERSON MAY NOT INJECT, RELEASE, OR DISPERSE, BY ANY MEANS, A  
2       CHEMICAL COMPOUND, SUBSTANCE, OR APPARATUS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE  
3       WITHIN THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF AFFECTING THE TEMPERATURE,  
4       WEATHER, CLIMATE, OR INTENSITY OF THE SUNLIGHT.

5       **5-1503.**

6       (A)   A PERSON WHO OBSERVES A WEATHER ENGINEERING ACTIVITY MAY  
7       REPORT THE ACTIVITY TO THE DEPARTMENT ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE, MAIL, OR  
8       E-MAIL.

9       (B)   THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE AN E-MAIL  
10      ADDRESS AND ONLINE FORM FOR THE REPORTING OF A WEATHER ENGINEERING  
11      ACTIVITY.

12      (C)   THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND  
13      DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, SHALL:

14           (1)   ESTABLISH A METHOD FOR EVALUATING REPORTS MADE UNDER  
15      THIS SECTION; AND

16           (2)   INVESTIGATE ANY REPORT THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS IN  
17      NEED OF FURTHER REVIEW.

18       **5-1504.**

19      (A)   EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON  
20      WHO VIOLATES § 5-1502 OF THIS SUBTITLE IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON  
21      CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100,000.

22      (B)   AN AIRCRAFT OPERATOR OR CONTROLLER WHO PARTICIPATES IN A  
23      WEATHER ENGINEERING ACTIVITY IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON CONVICTION IS  
24      SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5  
25      YEARS OR BOTH.

26      (C)   EACH VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

27      (D)   MONEY COLLECTED FROM FINES IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL  
28      BE DEPOSITED INTO THE BAY RESTORATION FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-1605.2  
29      OF THIS ARTICLE.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2026.