

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2024 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1861

Bill #: HB 506

Document ID #: 5044

Bill Title: AN ACT relating to geoengineering.

Sponsor: Representative Steve Rawlings

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
Unified Local
 Charter County Consolidated Local Government

Office(s) Impacted: Jails.

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

HB 506 creates new sections of KRS Chapter 224, which prohibits geoengineering. Geoengineering is defined as the intentional manipulation of the environment, through an atmospheric polluting activity, to effect changes to the earth's atmosphere or surface, including but not limited to the practices of weather modification, aerosol injection, and cloud seeding. Knowingly engaging in a geoengineering activity is a Class D felony and carries a civil penalty of not less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). Each day that a person knowingly engages in a geoengineering activity shall constitute a separate offense.

The fiscal impact of HB 506 is indeterminable but likely negative. Since HB 506 creates a new felony, there is no past conviction data with which to base a projection of the likely number of incarcerations and convictions resulting from this bill. However, each incarceration would represent a cost in the amount detailed in the paragraph below. Additionally, there may be a higher number of civil suits brought to courts as a result of

HB 506; however, it is not clear if the higher number of cases would necessitate increased expenditures.

When a court denies bail to a Class D felony defendant, the local government is responsible for incarcerating the defendant until disposition of the case in one of Kentucky's 74 full service jails or three life safety jails. While the expense of housing inmates varies by jail, each additional inmate increases facility costs by an average cost to incarcerate of \$44.97, which includes the \$35.34 per diem and medical expenses that the Department of Corrections pays jails to house felony offenders. Upon sentencing, a Class D felon is housed in one of Kentucky's full service jails for the duration of his or her sentence. The Department of Corrections pays a jail \$35.34 per day to house a Class D felon. The per diem may be less than, equal to, or greater than the actual housing cost.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff. Department of Corrections.

Preparer: Bart Liguori (RB) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/12/24