
DIGEST

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HB 587 Original

2021 Regular Session

Robert Owen

Abstract: Modifies state law regulation of unmanned aerial systems and unmanned aircraft systems and establishes a new Louisiana Drone Advisory Committee.

Present law specifies the regulation of unmanned aerial systems and unmanned aircraft systems.

Proposed law retains present law and adds an exclusion to the regulation of unmanned aerial systems and unmanned aircraft systems as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law specifies that flying an unmanned aerial system over the lands and waters of Louisiana is lawful, unless it is operated at a low altitude causing interference or injury to persons or property; and it unlawful to land without consent unless by forced landing which the owner or lessee will be responsible for damages caused.

Proposed law specifies that the any political subdivision may lease space for private purposes pending the approval of the governing body. Requires the governing body to determine that the use of the space will not cause an unreasonable interference with the public use and utility use of the street and highway; and provides an opportunity for the political subdivision to be heard.

Proposed law specifies that the Louisiana Drone Advisory Committee is created within the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Proposed law requires the secretary of the DOTD to create the Louisiana Drone Advisory Committee; form a committee of twenty one diverse members involved with deployment and advancement of drone technologies; and requires the committee to provide recommendations to the secretary of the DOTD as well as both the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and the Senate Committee of Transportation, Highways, and Public Works on issues related to the adoption of drone technologies.

Proposed law specifies that the members will be appointed by the following groups or individuals:

- (1) One member selected by the governor.
- (2) One member selected by the chairman of the Senate Committee of Transportation, Highways and Public Works.
- (3) One member selected by the chairman of the House Committee of Transportation, Highways

and Public Works.

- (4) One member selected by the chairman of the House Committee of Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs.
- (5) One member from the Senate Committee of Local and Municipal Affairs.
- (6) One member selected by the Dept. of Natural Resources.
- (7) One member selected by the Dept. of Transportation and Development.
- (8) One member from the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry appointed by the commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.
- (9) One member from Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority appointed by the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.
- (10) One member from the La. Farm Bureau Federation appointed by the president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation.
- (11) One member from the DRONERESPONDERS Public Safety Alliance appointed by the director of the DRONERESPONDERS Public Safety Alliance.
- (12) One member from La. Society of Professional Surveyors appointed by the president of the La. Society of Professional Surveyors.
- (13) One member from La. Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association appointed by the board of directors of the La. Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association.
- (14) One member from the La. Oil and Gas Association appointed by the board of directors of the La. Oil and Gas Association.
- (15) One member from La. Airport Managers and Associates appointed by the president of the La. Airport Managers and Associates.

Proposed law requires the Louisiana Drone Advisory Committee to meet at least four times a year starting in Aug. of 2021; appointments must be made no later than July 31, 2021; and must end at the completion of the 2022 Regular Session. It also requires replacement of a member resigning from the committee.

Proposed law requires the members of the La. Drone Advisory Committee to serve in an unpaid capacity unless for a per diem as funded by the state for any easement granted for unmanned aircraft system rights of way or otherwise funded by the DOTD.

Proposed law authorizes the DOTD the powers to make any contract, execute any document or

perform any act in order to carry out the provision of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the La. Drone Advisory Committee to submit a detailed report on the state of the drone industry in La. at least thirty days prior to the start of each legislative session.

Proposed law requires the La. Drone Advisory Committee to appoint one member to serve as a liaison with the Federal Aviation Administration.

(Amends R.S. 2:2(A)(2); Adds R.S. 2:2(A)(3) and (4) and 2.1)