

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 328 (HB 587)

2021 Regular Session

Robert Owen

Existing law provides for the regulation of unmanned aerial systems and unmanned aircraft systems.

New law retains existing law but specifies that nothing in existing law can supersede the exclusive sovereignty of airspace of the U.S.

New law creates the La. Drone Advisory Committee within the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

New law requires the secretary of the DOTD to create the La. Drone Advisory Committee; form a committee of 15 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 on Transportation, Highways and Public Works on issues related to the adoption of drone technologies.

New law provides 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 on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.
- (3) One member selected by the chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.
- (4) One member selected by the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development.
- (5) One member from the La. Farm Bureau Federation appointed by the president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation.
- (6) One member from the DRONERESPONDERS Public Safety Alliance appointed by the director of the DRONERESPONDERS Public Safety Alliance.
- (7) One member from the La. Society of Professional Surveyors appointed by the president of the La. Society of Professional Surveyors.
- (8) One member from the La. Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association appointed by the board of directors of the La. Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association.
- (9) One member selected by the president of the La. Senate.
- (10) One member selected by the speaker of the La. House of Representatives.
- (11) One member from the Pelican Chapter of the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International appointed by the chairman of the Pelican Chapter of the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International.
- (12) One member from the Fletcher Technical Community College appointed by the chancellor of the Fletcher Technical Community College.
- (13) One member from the Nicholls State University appointed by the president of Nicholls State University.
- (14) One member from the La. Airport Managers and Associates appointed by the board of the Airport Managers and Associates.

- (15) One member from the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission appointed by the commission.

New law requires the La. Drone Advisory Committee to meet at least four times a year starting in Aug. of 2021. Requires appointments be made no later than July 31, 2021. Requires the terms end at the completion of the 2022 Regular Session of the La. Legislature. Requires replacement of a member resigning from the committee.

New law requires the members of the La. Drone Advisory Committee to serve in an unpaid capacity. Requires the DOTD to provide staff support and resources to the committee solely for the preparation of committee agendas and minutes.

New law requires the La. Drone Advisory Committee to issue a report on the state of the unmanned aircraft system and unmanned aerial system industry in La. at least 30 days prior to the start of each legislative session. Also, specifies the type of information to be included in the first report, including an examination of the potential impact of drone highways.

New law requires the La. Drone Advisory Committee to appoint one member to serve as a liaison with the Federal Aviation Administration, by majority vote of a quorum of members present at a meeting, to address any issues with federal, state, and local laws governing unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aerial systems.

Effective August 1, 2021.

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