

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 127

BY SENATORS CATHEY AND ALLAIN

HUNTERS/HUNTING. Provides for the utilization of unmanned aircraft systems. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:337(G), R.S. 56:116.1(D)(5), and R.S. 56:116.3(I), relative to the use of  
3 unmanned aircraft systems; to provide for exceptions; to provide for observation of  
4 feral hogs; to provide for recovery of wounded deer; to provide for observation of  
5 deer; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:337(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §337. Unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system

9 \* \* \*

10 **G. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to unmanned aircraft**  
11 **systems used to assist in observation of feral hogs, as provided in R.S.**  
12 **56:116.1(D)(5), or tracking and retrieval of mortally wounded deer in the open**  
13 **season or observation of deer in the closed season, as provided in R.S.**  
14 **56:116.3(I).**

15 Section 2. R.S. 56:116.1(D)(5) and R.S. 56:116.3(I) are hereby enacted to read as  
16 follows:

17 §116.1. Wild birds and wild quadrupeds; times and methods of taking; penalties

1 D.(1) \* \* \*

2 **(5) On private property, an unmanned aircraft system may be used to**  
3 **assist in observation of feral hogs.**

4 \* \* \*

5 §116.3. Special provisions applicable to deer and bear; times and methods of taking;  
6 penalties

7 \* \* \*

8 **I. No person shall use an unmanned aircraft system, as defined in R.S.**  
9 **14:337, for the purposes of tracking, recovery, hunting, or taking of deer, except**  
10 **in the following circumstances:**

11 **(1) Except in wildlife management areas, an unmanned aircraft system**  
12 **may be used to assist in tracking and retrieval of mortally wounded deer during**  
13 **or after legal hunting hours in the open season.**

14 **(2) Except in wildlife management areas, an unmanned aircraft system**  
15 **may be used to assist in observation of deer in the closed season. Such use shall**  
16 **not include physical contact with or harassment of deer.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jacob K. Wilson.

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Present law defines unmanned aircraft system (UAS) and unlawful use of a UAS and provides for exceptions.

Proposed law retains present law and adds exceptions for UAS's used to observe feral hogs and deer and to track and recover wounded deer.

Present law provides methods of taking outlaw quadrupeds, including feral hogs.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that UAS's may be used to observe feral hogs on private property.

Present law provides special provisions applicable to hunting and taking deer.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that, except in wildlife management areas, UAS's may be used to track and recover mortally wounded deer during or after legal hunting hours in the open season.

Proposed law provides that, except in wildlife management areas, UAS's may be used to observe deer during the closed season. Proposed law prohibits use of unmanned aircraft

systems to physically contact or harass deer.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 14:337(G) and R.S. 56:116.3(I))