

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 587****2021 Regular Session****Robert Owen**

**AIRCRAFT/AVIATION:** Provides relative to the regulation of unmanned aerial and aircrafts systems and the Louisiana Drone Advisory Committee

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Removes a provision that made flight by an unmanned aerial system over the lands and waters of Louisiana lawful unless expressly prohibited by law.
3. Increases the composition of the Louisiana Drone Advisory Committee from thirteen to fifteen by adding the following members:
  - a. One member from the Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates appointed by the board of the Louisiana Airport Mangers and Associates.
  - b. One member from the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission appointed by the commission.
4. Removes a provision that required the functions of the committee be funded by the Department of Transportation and Development.
5. Requires the Department of Transportation and Development to provide staff support and resources to the committee solely for the preparation of committee agendas and minutes.
6. Removes the Department of Transportation and Development's authority to enter contracts, execute documents, or perform acts to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

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

Proposed law retains present law but specifies that nothing in proposed law can supercede the exclusive sovereignty of airspace of the U.S.

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

Proposed 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.

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 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.

Proposed law requires the La. 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 of the La. Legislature. 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. Requires the DOTD to provide staff support and resources to the committee solely for the preparation of committee agendas and minutes.

Proposed 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.

Proposed 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.

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