

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVE GALLE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CRIME: Provides relative to unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:337(B)(5) and (6) and (F), relative to offenses affecting the public
3 generally; to provide relative to the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft
4 system; to provide for definitions; to provide for duties of law enforcement; and to
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:337(B)(5) and (6) and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §337. Unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system

9 * * *

10 B. As used in this Section, the following definitions shall apply:

11 * * *

12 (5) "Mitigation measures" mean actions, such as jamming, that are taken to
13 cause electronic interference to neutralize, intercept, disable, or disrupt an unmanned
14 aircraft system in order to prevent illegal or harmful activity.

15 (6) "Nefarious manner" means an illegal, dangerous, or harmful purpose in
16 which an unmanned aircraft system is used. Such purpose may include but is not
17 limited to spying, smuggling contraband as defined in R.S. 14:402, facilitating
18 criminal activity, or posing a direct threat to public safety.

19 * * *

1 F.(1) A law enforcement officer or agency may take reasonable and
2 necessary mitigation measures against a threat posed by an unmanned aircraft system
3 operating within this state in a nefarious manner. Such measures may include but
4 not be limited to any of the following:

5 (a) The use of detection, tracking, and identification methods.

6 (b) The interception or disabling of an unmanned aircraft system through
7 legal and safe methods, including but not limited to jamming, hacking, or physical
8 capture.

9 (2) A law enforcement officer or agency shall only act pursuant to Paragraph
10 (1) of this Subsection if there is reasonable suspicion that the unmanned aircraft
11 system is involved in criminal activity, poses an imminent threat to public safety, or
12 is otherwise operating in violation of state or federal law.

13 Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "We Will Act" Act.

14 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
15 alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 14:337(B) and to correct any
16 cross-references to the renumbered paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions
17 of this Act.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 261 Original

2025 Regular Session

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Abstract: Provides relative to the unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system.

Present law (R.S. 14:337) provides for the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system.

Proposed law retains present law generally.

Present law (R.S. 14:337(B)) provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines the terms "mitigation measures" and "nefarious manner".

Proposed law authorizes a law enforcement officer or agency to take reasonable and necessary mitigation measures against a threat posed by an unmanned aircraft system

operating within this state in a nefarious manner. Further provides that such measures may include but not be limited to any of the following:

- (1) The use of detection, tracking, and identification methods.
- (2) The interception or disabling of an unmanned aircraft system through legal and safe methods, including but not limited to jamming, hacking, or physical capture.

Proposed law provides that a law enforcement officer or agency shall only act pursuant to proposed law if there is reasonable suspicion that the unmanned aircraft system is involved in criminal activity, poses an imminent threat to public safety, or is otherwise operating in violation of state or federal law.

Proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "We Will Act" Act.

Directs the La. State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 14:337(B) and to correct any cross-references that may need to be changed as a result of this renumbering.

(Adds R.S. 14:337(B)(5) and (6) and (F))