
DIGEST

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HB 261 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Galle

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 provides for the crime of use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade.

Proposed law defines the terms "parade" and "parade route".

Proposed law provides for penalties of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both. Further provides that the court shall order the forfeiture of the unmanned aircraft system used in connection with the offense and provide for the destruction, sale, or other disposition of the unmanned aircraft system.

Proposed law provides for the mandatory posting of notice of the area known as the "Drone No Fly

Zone" along the parade route and permits the zone to be announced through the use of local media outlets or social media platforms.

Proposed law provides that lack of knowledge that the prohibited act occurred on or within the parade or parade route shall not be a defense.

Proposed law does not apply to unmanned aircraft systems used for motion picture, television, or similar production where the filming is authorized.

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) and 337.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade and provide for elements, definitions, penalties, and exceptions to the crime.