Pending UAS Legislation: Interactive Session

2020 Winter Conference - Honolulu
Presenters

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Moderator:
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1. Drone Backlog Reduction Act (H.R. 2830)

Sponsor: Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)

Cosponsors: Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)
            Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)

Summary: Directs FAA to create a UAS Waiver Task Force to process applications and waiver requests
Drone Backlog Reduction Act (H.R. 2830)

Bill Status: Referred to House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

MAPPS Impact: Intended to reduce backlog & accelerate review time of waiver & exemption applications

Sponsor: Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Cosponsors: Sens. Cotton (R-AR); Hawley (R-MO); Rubio (R-FL); Murphy (D-CT); Blumenthal (D-CT); Blackburn (R-TN)

Summary: Bans Federal procurement and operation of UAS from covered foreign countries (strategic competitors)

Bill Status: Referred to the Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee

MAPPS Impact: Prohibits Federal contract/grant funds from procurement of covered drones/UAS

Bans Federal procurement of certain UAS-related devices

Prohibits Federal agency from operating
3. Aerial Incursion Repercussion (AIR) Safety Act (H.R. 5040)

Sponsor: John Curtis (R-UT)

Cosponsors: Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CO)

Summary: Directs BLM to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression
Aerial Incursion Repercussion (AIR) Safety Act (H.R. 5040)

Bill Status: Referred to House Natural Resources + House Agriculture Committees

MAPPS Impact: Study incorporates incursions on lands managed by DOI & USDA in previous 5 years interfering with wildfire suppression

Determine # of occurrences & evaluate actions to prevent incursions

Report due 18 months after enactment
4. Drone Integration and Zoning Act (S. 2607)

**Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)

**Cosponsors:** None

**Summary:** Requires FAA to ensure state/local government has authority to reasonably restrict operations of UAS up to 200 feet above ground, with exceptions.
Drone Integration and Zoning Act (S. 2607)

Bill Status: Referred to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

MAPPS Impact: Reasonable restrictions include—
  • limitations on operations in the vicinity of schools, parks, roadways, bridges, moving locations, or other public or private property
  • operations at certain times of the day or week or on specific occasions

Restrictions cannot impede access to navigable airspace above 200 feet
5. Drone Advisory Committee for the 21st Century Act (S. 2730)

**Sponsor:** Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

**Cosponsors:** Sen. John Thune (R-SD)  
Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)

**Summary:** To ensure the FAA’s Drone Advisory Committee (designed to support a UAS integration strategy) is inclusive and transparent
Drone Advisory Committee for the 21st Century Act (S. 2730)

Bill Status: Referred to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

MAPPS Impact: Proposes a charter to govern the structure of the DAC

Opens DAC membership to individuals that represent airports, labor, operators, OEMs, and sectors deemed appropriate by the FAA, among others

FAA must consider public comments in the nominating of committee members
6. Coast Guard Drug Detection and Interdiction Act (S. 2173)

Sponsor: Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Cosponsors: Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)
      Sen. Todd Young (R-IN)

Summary: To enhance the land-based unmanned aircraft system program of the Coast Guard
Coast Guard Drug Detection and Interdiction Act (S. 2173)

**Bill Status:** Referred to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

**MAPPS Impact:** Authorizes Coast Guard funding through FY2021 for the enhancement of its land-based UAS program

Requires feasibility assessment of using UAS for surveillance of marine protected areas, the transit zone and the Arctic

Considers expanded use of medium range UAS