

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 940

BY REPRESENTATIVE BERAULT

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:337.2, relative to unmanned aircraft systems; to provide for definitions; to  
3 provide for duties of law enforcement agencies and officers; to provide for  
4 interception and mitigation measures; to provide for training; to provide for the  
5 submission of reports; to provide for duties of the office of technology services, the  
6 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the office of  
7 state police, and the office of the attorney general; to provide for the creation of a  
8 joint task force; to provide for consultation with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association;  
9 to provide for rulemaking; to provide for a presumption; to provide relative to  
10 immunity; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 14:337.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §337.2. Unmanned aircraft systems; law enforcement training standards; reporting;  
14 immunity

15 A. The provisions of this Section shall be known and may be cited as the  
16 "Law Enforcement Training Standards Governing Operations Act" or "LETS GO!  
17 Act".

18 B. For purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following  
19 meanings:

1           (1) "Forensic" means any technique in which an unmanned aircraft system,  
2           its control station, or its data is examined or preserved as evidence in connection  
3           with a law enforcement or regulatory action.

4           (2) "Intercept" means any authorized action of a law enforcement officer or  
5           agency to detect, track, disable, seize, or otherwise mitigate an unmanned aircraft  
6           system threat in accordance with this Section.

7           (3) "Joint authority" means the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,  
8           office of state police, and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

9           (4) "Rules of engagement" means policies and operational procedures  
10           governing how a law enforcement agency or officer responds to, interdicts, or  
11           mitigates the operations of an unmanned aircraft system.

12           (5) "Unmanned aircraft system" means an unmanned, powered aircraft that  
13           does not carry a human operator, can be autonomous or remotely piloted or operated,  
14           and can be expendable or recoverable. "Unmanned aircraft system" does not include  
15           any of the following:

16           (a) A satellite orbiting the earth.

17           (b) An unmanned aircraft system used by the federal government or a person  
18           who is acting pursuant to contract with the federal government to conduct  
19           surveillance of specific activities.

20           (c) An unmanned aircraft system used by the state government or a person  
21           who is acting pursuant to a contract with the state government to conduct  
22           surveillance of specific activities.

23           (d) An unmanned aircraft system used by a local government law  
24           enforcement agency or fire department.

25           (e) An unmanned aircraft system used by a person, affiliate, employee,  
26           agent, or contractor of any business that is regulated by the Louisiana Public Service  
27           Commission or by a local franchising authority or the Federal Communications  
28           Commission under the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act  
29           of 1992 or of a municipal or public utility, while acting in the course and scope of

1 his employment or agency relating to the operation, repair, or maintenance of a  
2 facility, servitude, or any property located on the immovable property which belongs  
3 to such a business.

4 C.(1) A law enforcement agency or officer acting pursuant to the rules of  
5 engagement may take reasonable mitigation measures against an unmanned aircraft  
6 system that the agency or officer reasonably suspects is engaged in illegal, nefarious,  
7 or threatening conduct.

8 (2) Any interception or mitigation shall adhere to all of the following  
9 procedures:

10 (a) It is consistent with approved rules of engagement.

11 (b) It is documented in writing or electronically.

12 (c) It is reported to the office of the attorney general within seventy-two  
13 hours of interception.

14 (3) All equipment employed for interception or mitigation measures against  
15 an unmanned aircraft system shall comply with applicable state and federal laws and  
16 meet the procurement standards adopted pursuant to this Section.

17 D.(1) A law enforcement agency or officer who performs or supervises an  
18 interception of an unmanned aircraft system shall complete the training program  
19 created pursuant to this Section.

20 (2) Agencies shall maintain records of officer certifications and make such  
21 records available to the joint authority for inspection.

22 (3) By January thirtieth of each year, every agency exercising interception  
23 authority over unmanned aircraft systems shall submit an annual summary of  
24 training and operational incidents to the office of the attorney general.

25 E. Forensic laboratories utilized pursuant to this Section shall be accredited  
26 or approved by the joint authority or by federal agencies authorized to mitigate  
27 against unmanned aircraft systems.

28 F.(1) The office of technology services and the Governor's Office of  
29 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, referred to in this Section as

1 GOHSEP, shall serve as the principal state agencies for technical and procurement  
2 coordination pursuant to this Section.

3 (2) In consultation with the joint authority, the office of technology services  
4 and GOHSEP shall do all of the following:

5 (a) Develop uniform procurement standards for detection, interception, and  
6 forensic technologies involving unmanned aircraft systems.

7 (b) Evaluate and certify equipment for cybersecurity, interoperability, and  
8 safety compliance.

9 (c) Ensure all acquisitions comply with the applicable provisions of the  
10 Louisiana Procurement Code, R.S. 39:1551 et seq., and any applicable federal  
11 regulations.

12 (d) Maintain a statewide inventory of approved technologies for agency use.

13 (e) Issue technical advisories or bulletins regarding the capabilities of  
14 emerging counter-technology to unmanned aircraft systems.

15 (3) No state or local agency shall procure mitigation or forensic equipment  
16 for unmanned aircraft systems without first obtaining permission from both the  
17 office of technology services and GOHSEP regarding technical compliance.

18 G.(1) The joint authority shall prepare an annual public report that  
19 summarizes all of the following:

20 (a) Mitigation incidents involving unmanned aircraft systems.

21 (b) Training and certification compliance.

22 (c) Forensic activities and outcomes.

23 (d) Procurement reviews and technology developments.

24 (e) Recommended legislative or regulatory improvements.

25 (2) The joint authority shall meet annually and shall include individuals from  
26 the office of the attorney general, office of technology services, and GOHSEP.

27 H.(1) The Legislature of Louisiana hereby authorizes and directs the creation  
28 of the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Joint Task Force.

29 (2) The membership of the task force shall be as follows:

1           (a) A state employee appointed by the governor, who will serve as the  
2           chairman.

3           (b) The superintendent of the office of state police or his designee.

4           (c) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his  
5           designee.

6           (d) The attorney general or his designee.

7           (e) The director of GOHSEP or his designee.

8           (f) The state chief information officer or his designee.

9           (g) The chairman of the Drone Advisory Committee or his designee.

10          (3) The members of the task force shall take direction from and report to the  
11          chairman. Additionally, the chairman shall notify the governor of any meetings,  
12          reports, and any other actions taken on behalf of the task force.

13          I.(1) A law enforcement officer or agency who performs or supervises a  
14          mitigation of an unmanned aircraft system shall be presumed to have acted within  
15          the scope of lawful authority if he acts in good faith and in substantial compliance  
16          with this Section.

17          (2) The office of the attorney general shall do all of the following:

18          (a) Provide legal guidance and interpretation of this Section to the joint  
19          authority and participating law enforcement agencies.

20          (b) Represent, defend, or otherwise assist law enforcement agencies or  
21          officers in proceedings arising from actions taken pursuant to this Section.

22          (c) Issue advisory opinions concerning immunity, liability, and  
23          intergovernmental coordination.

24          (3) Immunity shall not extend to acts of gross negligence, willful  
25          misconduct, or knowing violations of constitutional or statutory law.

26          (4) Nothing in this Subsection shall preclude an individual from seeking  
27          judicial relief for unlawful actions or a violation of rights.

28          J.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state  
29          police, with consultation and input from the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, shall

1 adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

2 Any such rules and regulations shall be adopted, amended, or repealed only in  
3 compliance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

4 (2) The rules shall include but not be limited to any of the following:

5 (a) Rules of engagement and coordination with federal agencies pertaining  
6 to the interception and mitigation of unmanned aircraft systems.

7 (b) Training and certification standards for law enforcement officers engaged  
8 in mitigation or forensic activities. Training shall include but not be limited to all  
9 of the following:

10 (i) Identification and detection of unmanned aircraft systems.

11 (ii) Counter-technologies for unmanned aircraft systems.

12 (iii) Operational safety and risk mitigation.

13 (iv) Civil rights, privacy, and evidentiary considerations.

14 (v) Scenario-based exercises.

15 (c) Procedures for the management and preservation of forensics and  
16 evidence to ensure integrity and admissibility of evidence related to unmanned  
17 aircraft systems. Such procedures shall include but not be limited to all of the  
18 following:

19 (i) Chain of custody documentation.

20 (ii) Data extraction and verification of digital integrity.

21 (iii) Secure storage of seized equipment.

22 (iv) Metadata and telemetry preservation.

23 (v) Reporting and certification of forensic specialists.

24 (d) Inter-agency coordination protocols, memoranda of understanding, and  
25 reporting and oversight mechanisms.

26 (e) Privacy, civil rights, and constitutional protections applicable to  
27 mitigation of unmanned aircraft systems.

28 (f) Procurement and technology standards developed in coordination with  
29 the office of technology services and GOHSEP.

1                   (3) The rules adopted pursuant to this Subsection shall be reviewed and  
2                   updated at least once every three years.

3                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
7 effective on the day following such approval.

#### 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 940 Original

2026 Regular Session

Berault

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

Proposed law defines the terms "forensic", "intercept", "joint authority", "rules of engagement", and "unmanned aircraft system".

Proposed law authorizes a law enforcement agency or officer to take reasonable mitigation measures against an unmanned aircraft system that the agency or officer reasonably suspects is engaged in illegal, nefarious, or threatening conduct.

Proposed law provides for interception or mitigation procedures.

Proposed law provides for training, maintenance of records of officer certifications, and the submission of an annual summary of training and operational incidents.

Proposed law requires that forensic laboratories utilized under proposed law be accredited or approved by the joint authority or by federal agencies authorized to mitigate against unmanned aircraft systems.

Proposed law requires that the office of technology services (OTS) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHSEP) serve as the principal state agencies for technical and procurement coordination under proposed law. Further provides for duties of OTS and GOHSEP.

Proposed law prohibits any state or local agency from procuring mitigation or forensic equipment for unmanned aircraft systems without first obtaining permission from both the OTS and GOHSEP regarding technical compliance.

Proposed law requires the joint authority to do both of the following:

- (1) Prepare an annual public report that summarizes certain information.
- (2) Meet annually with individuals from the office of the attorney general, OTS, and GOHSEP.

Proposed law authorizes the creation of the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Joint Task Force and provides for membership of the task force.

Proposed law provides that a law enforcement officer or agency who performs or supervises a mitigation of an unmanned aircraft system is presumed to have acted within the scope of lawful authority if he acts in good faith and in substantial compliance with proposed law.

Proposed law provides for duties of the office of the attorney general.

Proposed law provides that immunity does not extend to acts of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or knowing violations of constitutional or statutory law. Further provides that nothing in proposed law precludes an individual from seeking judicial relief for unlawful actions or a violation of rights.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), office of state police, with consultation and input from the Louisiana Sheriffs' Assoc., to adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary in accordance with the APA to implement the provisions of proposed law. Further enumerates what is to be included in these rules and provides for a review of these rules at least once every three years.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 14:337.2)