
DIGEST

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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)