

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 rulemaking; to provide for a presumption; to provide
9 relative to immunity; to provide for termination; to provide for an effective date; and
10 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:

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

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

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

7 (4) "Task force" means the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Joint Task
8 Force established pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

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

13 (a) A satellite orbiting the earth.

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

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

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

22 (e) An unmanned aircraft system used by a person, affiliate, employee,
23 agent, or contractor of any business that is regulated by the Louisiana Public Service
24 Commission or by a local franchising authority or the Federal Communications
25 Commission under the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act
26 of 1992 or of a municipal or public utility, while acting in the course and scope of
27 his employment or agency relating to the operation, repair, or maintenance of a
28 facility, servitude, or any property located on the immovable property which belongs
29 to such a business.

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

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

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

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

9 (3) All equipment employed for interception or mitigation measures against
10 an unmanned aircraft system shall comply with applicable state and federal laws.

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

14 (2) Agencies shall maintain records of officer certifications and make such
15 records available to the task force for inspection.

16 (3) By January thirtieth of each year, every agency exercising interception
17 authority over unmanned aircraft systems shall submit an annual summary of
18 training and operational incidents to the task force.

19 E. Forensic laboratories utilized pursuant to this Section shall be accredited
20 or approved by the task force or by federal agencies authorized to mitigate against
21 unmanned aircraft systems.

22 F.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the purchase,
23 lease, or rental of any information technology equipment, related services, or
24 software pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be exempt from the
25 oversight and procurement authority of the office of technology services; however,
26 all such procurements shall be made in conformity with applicable state and federal
27 procurement laws and regulations and the office of technology services shall assist
28 with execution of the provisions of this Section.

29 (2) The office of technology services shall:

1 (a) Maintain a statewide inventory of approved hardware and software
2 technologies for agency use.

3 (b) Issue technical advisories or bulletins regarding the capabilities of
4 emerging counter-technology software to unmanned aircraft systems.

5 G. The task force shall prepare an annual report that summarizes all of the
6 following:

7 (1) Mitigation incidents involving unmanned aircraft systems.

8 (2) Training and certification compliance.

9 (3) Forensic activities and outcomes.

10 (4) Procurement reviews and technology developments.

11 (5) Recommended legislative or regulatory improvements.

12 H.(1) The Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Joint Task Force is hereby
13 created under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,
14 office of state police.

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

16 (a) The superintendent of the office of state police, or his designee, who shall
17 serve as the chairman.

18 (b) Two employees of the office of state police who are each subject matter
19 experts in unmanned aircraft systems.

20 (c) The Adjutant General of Louisiana, or his designee.

21 (d) An employee of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and
22 Emergency Preparedness who is a subject matter expert in unmanned aircraft
23 systems.

24 (e) The executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, or his
25 designee.

26 (f) Two members of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the
27 association's executive committee, who are each subject matter experts in unmanned
28 aircraft systems.

1 (g) The president of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, or his
2 designee.

3 (h) One member of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police who is
4 selected by the executive officers of the association and who is a subject matter
5 expert in unmanned aircraft systems.

6 (3) Members shall serve without compensation, except for per diem or
7 expenses to which they may be entitled as members of their constituent
8 organizations.

9 (4) A majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the
10 task force and any official action taken by the task force shall require an affirmative
11 vote of the majority of the quorum present and voting.

12 (5) The office of state police shall provide staff support to the task force.

13 (6) The task force may create subcommittees as it deems necessary.

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

18 (2) Immunity shall not extend to acts of gross negligence, willful
19 misconduct, or knowing violations of constitutional or statutory law.

20 (3) Nothing in this Subsection shall preclude an individual from seeking
21 judicial relief for unlawful actions or a violation of rights.

22 J.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police
23 shall adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary to implement the provisions of this
24 Section. The task force shall approve each proposed rule, amendment, or repeal
25 prior to the initiation of rulemaking pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.
26 Any such rules and regulations shall be adopted, amended, or repealed only in
27 compliance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

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

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

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

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

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

8 (iii) Operational safety and risk mitigation.

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

10 (v) Scenario-based exercises.

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

15 (i) Chain of custody documentation.

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

17 (iii) Secure storage of seized equipment.

18 (iv) Metadata and telemetry preservation.

19 (v) Reporting and certification of forensic specialists.

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

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

24 (f) Procurement and technology standards developed in consultation with the
25 office of technology services.

26 K. The provisions of this Section shall be null and void and terminate on
27 June 30, 2028.

28 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
3 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 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Berault

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

Proposed law defines the terms "forensic", "intercept", "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 establishes the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Joint Task Force (task force) under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police and provides for the membership, powers, and duties of the task force.

Proposed law requires that forensic laboratories be accredited or approved by the task force or by federal agencies authorized to mitigate against unmanned aircraft systems.

Proposed law exempts information technology, equipment, related services, and software procured pursuant to the provisions of proposed law from the oversight and procurement authority of the office of technology services (OTS); however, requires all such procurements to be made in conformity with applicable state and federal procurement laws and regulations and requires OTS to assist with execution of the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the task force to prepare an annual report that summarizes certain information.

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 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, office of state police, to adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) to implement the provisions of proposed law. Further enumerates what is to be

included in these rules. Proposed law requires the task force to approve each proposed rule, amendment, or repeal prior to the initiation of rulemaking pursuant to the APA.

Proposed law terminates June 30, 2028.

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

(Adds R.S. 14:337.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove provisions relative to the Attorney General.
2. Remove provisions relative to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, except with respect to membership on the task force.
3. Add sunset date of June 30, 2028.
4. Add definitions.
5. Establish the task force under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, and provide for the powers and duties of the task force.
6. Change the membership of the task force.
7. Require the task force to approve any adoption, change, or repeal of rules relative to proposed law prior to the initiation of rulemaking authority pursuant to the APA.
8. Exempt IT procurements made pursuant to proposed law from the oversight and authority of OTS. Require OTS to assist with execution of proposed law.
9. Make technical and conforming changes.