

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 854 (HB 940)

2026 Regular Session

Berault

New law defines "forensic", "intercept", "rules of engagement", "task force", and "unmanned aircraft system".

New 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.

New law provides for interception or mitigation procedures.

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

New law exempts the annual summary of training and operational incidents from the Public Records Law.

New 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. Provides for meetings of the task force and rules for conduct of such meetings. Further provides that these meetings are not subject to the Open Meetings Law.

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

New law exempts information technology, equipment, related services, and software procured pursuant to the provisions of new law from the oversight and procurement authority of the office of technology services (OTS); however, new law 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 new law.

New law requires the task force to prepare an annual report that summarizes certain information. Further provides that this annual report is not subject to the Public Records Law.

New law provides that a law enforcement officer or agency that performs or supervises a mitigation of an unmanned aircraft system is presumed to have acted within the scope of lawful authority if the actions were in good faith and in substantial compliance with new law.

New 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 new law precludes an individual from seeking judicial relief for unlawful actions or a violation of rights.

New law authorizes the task force to adopt necessary policies and procedures for the implementation and administration of new law.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 8, 2026).

(Amends R.S. 44:4.1(B)(7); Adds R.S. 14:337.2; R.S. 42:17(F), and R.S. 49:954(F))