

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVE GALLE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:337(B)(5) and (6) and (F) and 337.1, relative to offenses affecting the
3 public generally; to provide relative to the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned
4 aircraft system; to provide for definitions; to provide for duties of law enforcement;
5 to create the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade; to
6 provide for elements; to provide for penalties; to provide for exceptions; and to
7 provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 14:337(B)(5) and (6) and (F) and 337.1 are hereby enacted to read
10 as follows:

11 §337. Unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system

12 * * *

13 B. As used in this Section, the following definitions shall apply:

14 * * *

15 (5) "Mitigation measures" mean actions, such as jamming, that are taken to
16 cause electronic interference to neutralize, intercept, disable, or disrupt an unmanned
17 aircraft system in order to prevent illegal or harmful activity.

18 (6) "Nefarious manner" means an illegal, dangerous, or harmful purpose in
19 which an unmanned aircraft system is used. Such purpose may include but is not

1 limited to spying, smuggling contraband as defined in R.S. 14:402, facilitating
2 criminal activity, or posing a direct threat to public safety.

3 * * *

4 F.(1) A law enforcement officer or agency may take reasonable and
5 necessary mitigation measures against a threat posed by an unmanned aircraft system
6 operating within this state in a nefarious manner. Such measures may include but
7 not be limited to any of the following:

8 (a) The use of detection, tracking, and identification methods.

9 (b) The interception or disabling of an unmanned aircraft system through
10 legal and safe methods, including but not limited to jamming, hacking, or physical
11 capture.

12 (2) A law enforcement officer or agency shall only act pursuant to Paragraph
13 (1) of this Subsection if there is reasonable suspicion that the unmanned aircraft
14 system is involved in criminal activity, poses an imminent threat to public safety, or
15 is otherwise operating in violation of state or federal law.

16 §337.1. Unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade

17 A. Unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade is the intentional
18 use of an unmanned aircraft system by an unauthorized person over any parade or
19 parade route for which a permit is issued by a governmental entity.

20 B. As used in this Section, the following definitions shall apply:

21 (1) "Parade" means any celebration of Mardi Gras or directly related
22 pre-Lenten or carnival related festivities, school parades, parish parades, state
23 parades or municipal parades, or any demonstration for which a permit is issued by
24 a governmental entity.

25 (2) "Parade route" means any public sidewalk, street, highway, bridge, alley,
26 road, or other public passageway upon which a parade travels.

27 C. Whoever commits the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft
28 system at a parade shall be fined not less than two thousand dollars nor more than
29 five thousand dollars, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one

1 year, or both. In addition to the sentence imposed pursuant to this Paragraph, the
2 court shall order the forfeiture of the unmanned aircraft system used in connection
3 with the offense and provide for the destruction, sale, or other disposition of the
4 unmanned aircraft system.

5 D. Notice of the area known as the "Drone No Fly Zone" shall be posted
6 along the parade route and may be announced through the use of local media outlets
7 or social media platforms.

8 E. Lack of knowledge that the prohibited act occurred on or within the
9 parade or parade route shall not be a defense.

10 F. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to unmanned aircraft
11 systems used for motion picture, television, or similar production where the filming
12 is authorized.

13 Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "We Will Act" Act.

14 Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
15 alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 14:337(B) and to correct any
16 cross-references to the renumbered paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions
17 of this Act.

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 261 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

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

Present law (R.S. 14:337) provides for the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system.

Proposed law retains present law generally.

Present law (R.S. 14:337(B)) provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines the terms "mitigation measures" and "nefarious manner".

Proposed law authorizes a law enforcement officer or agency to take reasonable and necessary mitigation measures against a threat posed by an unmanned aircraft system

operating within this state in a nefarious manner. Further provides that such measures may include but not be limited to any of the following:

- (1) The use of detection, tracking, and identification methods.
- (2) The interception or disabling of an unmanned aircraft system through legal and safe methods, including but not limited to jamming, hacking, or physical capture.

Proposed law provides that a law enforcement officer or agency shall only act pursuant to proposed law if there is reasonable suspicion that the unmanned aircraft system is involved in criminal activity, poses an imminent threat to public safety, or is otherwise operating in violation of state or federal law.

Proposed law provides for the crime of use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade.

Proposed law defines the terms "parade" and "parade route".

Proposed law provides for penalties of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both. Further provides that the court shall order the forfeiture of the unmanned aircraft system used in connection with the offense and provide for the destruction, sale, or other disposition of the unmanned aircraft system.

Proposed law provides for the mandatory posting of notice of the area known as the "Drone No Fly Zone" along the parade route and permits the zone to be announced through the use of local media outlets or social media platforms.

Proposed law provides that lack of knowledge that the prohibited act occurred on or within the parade or parade route shall not be a defense.

Proposed law does not apply to unmanned aircraft systems used for motion picture, television, or similar production where the filming is authorized.

Proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "We Will Act" Act.

Directs the La. State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 14:337(B) and to correct any cross-references that may need to be changed as a result of this renumbering.

(Adds R.S. 14:337(B)(5) and (6) and (F) and 337.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add the crime of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system at a parade and provide for elements, definitions, penalties, and exceptions to the crime.