

Senate Bill No. 11—Committee on
Growth and Infrastructure

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to unmanned aerial vehicles; requiring the Department of Public Safety to adopt certain regulations relating to unmanned aerial vehicles; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law governs the usage of unmanned aerial vehicles by the State and its political subdivisions and private citizens. (NRS 493.103-493.118) A public agency other than a law enforcement agency may, for specified public purposes prescribed in regulations adopted by the Department of Public Safety, employ an unmanned aerial vehicle that has been registered with the Department. (NRS 493.118; NAC 493.100) **Section 1.9** of this bill requires the Department to adopt regulations to establish: (1) a list of countries, businesses and entities from which a public agency or law enforcement agency shall not purchase or acquire any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle; and (2) a list of unmanned aerial vehicles and other related equipment or services that a public agency or law enforcement agency shall not operate, purchase or acquire. **Sections 1 and 1.3** of this bill prohibit, effective January 1, 2025, a public agency or law enforcement agency from operating, purchasing or acquiring any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle in violation of the regulations adopted by the Department.

Section 1.7 of this bill requires the Department to adopt regulations to: (1) authorize a public agency to conduct scheduled inspections to ensure compliance with building and fire codes and laws, ordinances, regulations and rules adopting or establishing building and fire codes; (2) prohibit a public agency from collecting any photograph, image or recording through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle during the scheduled inspection; and (3) provide that if a photograph, image or recording or other information is collected through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle during a scheduled inspection, such photograph, image, recording or other information is not admissible and must not be disclosed in any proceeding other than a proceeding relating to the purpose of the scheduled inspection.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 493.112 is hereby amended to read as follows:

493.112 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, nothing in this section shall be deemed to otherwise prohibit the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle by a law enforcement agency for any lawful purpose in this State.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, a law enforcement agency shall not operate an unmanned aerial vehicle



for the purpose of gathering evidence or other information within the curtilage of a residence or at any other location or upon any property in this State at which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, unless the law enforcement agency first obtains a warrant from a court of competent jurisdiction authorizing the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle for that purpose. A warrant authorizing the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle must specify the period for which operation of the unmanned aerial vehicle is authorized. A warrant must not authorize the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle for a period of more than 10 days. Upon motion and a showing of probable cause, a court may renew a warrant after the expiration of the period for which the warrant was initially issued.

3. A law enforcement agency may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle without obtaining a warrant issued pursuant to subsection 2:

(a) If the law enforcement agency has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a crime, is committing a crime or is about to commit a crime, and exigent circumstances exist that make it unreasonable for the law enforcement agency to obtain a warrant authorizing the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle.

(b) If a person provides written consent to the law enforcement agency authorizing the law enforcement agency to acquire information about the person or the real or personal property of the person. The written consent must specify the information to be gathered and the time, place and manner in which the information is to be gathered by the law enforcement agency.

(c) For the purpose of conducting search and rescue operations for persons and property in distress.

(d) Under circumstances in which the law enforcement agency believes that an imminent threat exists to the life and safety of an individual person or to the public at large, including, without limitation, the threat of an act of terrorism. A law enforcement agency that operates an unmanned aerial vehicle pursuant to this paragraph shall document the factual basis for its belief that such an imminent threat exists and shall, not later than 2 business days after initiating operation, file a sworn statement with a court of competent jurisdiction describing the nature of the imminent threat and the need for the operation of the unmanned aerial vehicle.

(e) Upon the declaration of a state of emergency or disaster by the Governor. A law enforcement agency that operates an unmanned aerial vehicle pursuant to this paragraph shall not use the unmanned aerial vehicle outside of the geographic area specified in the declaration or for any purpose other than the preservation of public safety, the protection of property, or the assessment and evaluation



of environmental or weather-related damage, erosion or contamination.

4. Any photograph, image, recording or other information that is acquired by a law enforcement agency through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle in violation of this section, or that is acquired from any other person or governmental entity, including, without limitation, a public agency and any department or agency of the Federal Government, that obtained the photograph, image, recording or other information in a manner inconsistent with the requirements of this section, and any evidence that is derived therefrom:

(a) Is not admissible in and must not be disclosed in a judicial, administrative or other adjudicatory proceeding; and

(b) May not be used to establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause as the basis for investigating or prosecuting a crime or offense.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a law enforcement agency shall not operate, purchase or acquire any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle in violation of the regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 493.118. A law enforcement agency may operate or use an unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle that was purchased or acquired before the effective date of the regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 493.118.

Sec. 1.3. NRS 493.115 is hereby amended to read as follows:
493.115 1. A public agency:

(a) May operate an unmanned aerial vehicle only if:

(1) Before the operation of the unmanned aerial vehicle, the public agency registers the unmanned aerial vehicle with the Department pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 493.118.

(2) The public agency operates the unmanned aerial vehicle in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 493.118.

(b) Must not operate an unmanned aerial vehicle for the purposes of assisting a law enforcement agency with law enforcement or conducting a criminal prosecution.

2. Any photograph, image, recording or other information that is acquired by a public agency through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle in violation of this section, and any evidence that is derived therefrom:



(a) Is not admissible in, and must not be disclosed in, a judicial, administrative or other adjudicatory proceeding; and

(b) May not be used to establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause as the basis for investigating or prosecuting a crime or offense.

3. *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a public agency shall not operate, purchase or acquire any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle in violation of the regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 493.118. A public agency may operate or use an unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle that was purchased or acquired before the effective date of the regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 493.118.*

Sec. 1.7. NRS 493.118 is hereby amended to read as follows:

493.118 1. The Department shall, to the extent that money is available for this purpose, establish and maintain a registry of unmanned aerial vehicles that are operated by public agencies in this State. The Department shall include on its Internet website the information that is maintained in the registry.

2. A public agency shall, for each unmanned aerial vehicle the public agency intends to operate, submit to the Department, on a form provided by the Department, for inclusion in the registry:

(a) The name of the public agency;

(b) The name and contact information of each operator of the unmanned aerial vehicle;

(c) Sufficient information to identify the unmanned aerial vehicle; and

(d) A statement describing the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle by the public agency.

3. The Department shall, on or before February 1 of each year, prepare and submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for submission to the Legislature, or to the Legislative Commission when the Legislature is not in regular session, a report outlining the activities of public agencies with respect to the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles in this State.

4. The Department shall adopt regulations prescribing the public purposes for which a public agency may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle that is registered with the Department pursuant to this section, including, without limitation:

(a) The provision of fire services.

(b) The provision of emergency medical services.



- (c) The protection of a critical facility that is public property.
- (d) Search and rescue operations conducted for persons and property in distress.

5. The regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 4 must include provisions that:

(a) Authorize, as a public purpose, a public agency to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle that is registered with the Department in order to conduct a scheduled inspection to ensure compliance with building or fire codes or laws, ordinances, regulations or rules adopting or establishing building or fire codes that are enforced by the public agency.

(b) Prohibit a public agency from collecting any photograph, image or recording through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle during a scheduled inspection described in paragraph (a). If any photograph, image or recording is collected in violation of such a regulation or if any other information is collected through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle during such a scheduled inspection, the photograph, image, recording or other information:

(1) Is not admissible and must not be disclosed in any judicial, administrative or other adjudicatory proceeding other than a proceeding relating to the purpose of the scheduled inspection; and

(2) May not be used to establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause as the basis for the investigation or prosecution of a crime or other offense.

Sec. 1.9. NRS 493.118 is hereby amended to read as follows:

493.118 1. The Department shall, to the extent that money is available for this purpose, establish and maintain a registry of unmanned aerial vehicles that are operated by public agencies in this State. The Department shall include on its Internet website the information that is maintained in the registry.

2. A public agency shall, for each unmanned aerial vehicle the public agency intends to operate, submit to the Department, on a form provided by the Department, for inclusion in the registry:

- (a) The name of the public agency;
- (b) The name and contact information of each operator of the unmanned aerial vehicle;
- (c) Sufficient information to identify the unmanned aerial vehicle; and
- (d) A statement describing the use of the unmanned aerial vehicle by the public agency.



3. The Department shall, on or before February 1 of each year, prepare and submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for submission to the Legislature, or to the Legislative Commission when the Legislature is not in regular session, a report outlining the activities of public agencies with respect to the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles in this State.

4. The Department shall adopt regulations prescribing the public purposes for which a public agency may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle that is registered with the Department pursuant to this section, including, without limitation:

- (a) The provision of fire services.
- (b) The provision of emergency medical services.
- (c) The protection of a critical facility that is public property.
- (d) Search and rescue operations conducted for persons and property in distress.

5. The regulations adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection 4 must include provisions that:

(a) Authorize, as a public purpose, a public agency to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle that is registered with the Department in order to conduct a scheduled inspection to ensure compliance with building or fire codes or laws, ordinances, regulations or rules adopting or establishing building or fire codes that are enforced by the public agency.

(b) Prohibit a public agency from collecting any photograph, image or recording through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle during a scheduled inspection described in paragraph (a). If any photograph, image or recording is collected in violation of such a regulation or if any other information is collected through the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle during such a scheduled inspection, the photograph, image, recording or other information:

(1) Is not admissible and must not be disclosed in any judicial, administrative or other adjudicatory proceeding other than a proceeding relating to the purpose of the scheduled inspection; and

(2) May not be used to establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause as the basis for the investigation or prosecution of a crime or other offense.

6. In addition to the regulations adopted pursuant to subsection 4, the Department shall adopt regulations to establish:

(a) A list of countries, businesses and entities from which a public agency or law enforcement agency shall not purchase or acquire any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle; and



(b) A list of unmanned aerial vehicles and other related equipment or services that a public agency or law enforcement agency shall not operate, purchase or acquire.

7. The lists established pursuant to subsection 6 must include, without limitation:

(a) Any country, business or entity identified by the Secretary of Defense of the United States Department of Defense pursuant to Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Public Law 116-283, any amendments thereto or any subsequent federal law establishing such a list;

(b) Any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle sold, manufactured or distributed by an entity identified by the Secretary of Defense of the United States Department of Defense pursuant to Section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Public Law 116-283, any amendments thereto or any subsequent federal law establishing such a list;

(c) Any hardware, software, vendor or service prohibited from being used by a state agency in Nevada by a regulation, guideline or policy adopted by the Division of Enterprise Information Technology Services of the Department of Administration pursuant to NRS 242.111 and 242.115; and

(d) Any other unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle, as determined by the Department.

Sec. 2. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 1.7 of this act becomes effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On October 1, 2023, for all other purposes.

3. Sections 1, 1.3 and 1.9 of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On January 1, 2025, for all other purposes.

