

SENATE FILE NO. SF0170

Unmanned aircraft.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Dockstader and Representative(s)  
Halverson and McKim

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to aeronautics; authorizing the Wyoming  
2 aeronautics commission to promulgate rules related to  
3 unmanned aircraft; amending powers and duties of the  
4 commission; amending provisions related to investigations  
5 and hearings; amending provisions related to low or  
6 dangerous flight and unauthorized landings; authorizing the  
7 Wyoming department of transportation to seek federal and  
8 other funding assistance related to unmanned aircraft;  
9 making conforming amendments; and providing for an  
10 effective date.

11

12 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

13

14 **Section 1.** W.S. 10-1-101(a) by creating new  
15 paragraphs (ix) through (xi) and by renumbering (ix) as

1 (xii), 10-3-201(e) and by creating new subsections (j) and  
2 (k), 10-3-301 and 10-4-303(a)(intro), (b) and by creating a  
3 new subsection (c) are amended to read:

4  
5 **10-1-101. Definitions.**

6  
7 (a) As used in this act:

8  
9 (ix) "Operator" means a person operating or  
10 flying an unmanned aircraft;

11  
12 (x) "Small unmanned aircraft" means as defined  
13 in 14 C.F.R. 1.1;

14  
15 (xi) "Unmanned aircraft" means as defined in 14  
16 C.F.R. 1.1;

17  
18 ~~(ix)~~ (xii) "This act" means W.S. 10-1-101 through  
19 10-6-104.

20  
21 **10-3-201. Powers and duties generally.**

1 (e) The commission shall assist communities in  
2 coordinating efforts, facilitating, recruiting and  
3 attracting and promoting the development, improvement and  
4 retention of commercial air service and accommodating  
5 military air service in the state. The assistance may  
6 include studying airline, ~~and~~ aircraft and unmanned  
7 aircraft profitability, route analysis, air fare monitoring  
8 and recommendations for legislative changes to enhance air  
9 services in the state.

10  
11 (j) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules  
12 governing where unmanned aircraft may take off and land,  
13 giving consideration to public health and safety,  
14 aesthetics and the general welfare. Unless otherwise  
15 prohibited by federal law, the commission may also  
16 promulgate reasonable rules governing the operation of  
17 unmanned aircraft.

18  
19 (k) This section shall not apply to the operation of  
20 small unmanned aircraft.

21  
22 **10-3-301. Conducting investigations and hearings;**  
23 **accidents to be reported.**

1

2 The commission may conduct investigations, inquiries and  
3 hearings concerning the laws of this state relating to  
4 aeronautics and accidents or injuries incident to the  
5 operation of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft,  
6 occurring within this state. Members of the commission may  
7 administer oaths and affirmations, certify to all official  
8 acts, issue subpoenas and compel the attendance and  
9 testimony of witnesses and the production of papers, books  
10 and documents. All accidents or injuries incident to the  
11 operation of aircraft occurring within this state shall be  
12 immediately reported to the commission.

13

14 **10-4-303. Low or dangerous flight; landing on land or**  
15 **water of another.**

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17 (a) Flight ~~in~~of aircraft, including unmanned  
18 aircraft, over the lands and waters of this state is lawful  
19 unless it is:

20

21 (b) The landing of an aircraft, including an unmanned  
22 aircraft, on the lands or waters of another, without his  
23 consent, is unlawful, except in the case of a forced

1 landing. For damages caused by a forced landing, however,  
2 the owner, operator or lessee of the aircraft or the airman  
3 shall be liable for actual damage caused by the forced  
4 landing.

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6 (c) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this  
7 section, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
8 prevent an operator or pilot from operating an aircraft,  
9 including an unmanned aircraft, over his own property.

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11 **Section 2.** The Wyoming department of transportation  
12 may seek any federal or other funding assistance related to  
13 unmanned aircraft.

14

15 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
16 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
17 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
18 Constitution.

19

20

(END)