

SENATE FILE NO. SF0170

Unmanned aircraft.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Dockstader

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) and (x) and by renumbering (ix) as (xi),
16 10-3-201(e) and by creating a new subsection (j), 10-3-301

1 and 10-4-303(a) (intro), (b) and by creating a new
2 subsection (c) are amended to read:

3

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

5

6 (a) As used in this act:

7

8 (ix) "Unmanned aircraft" means as defined in 14
9 C.F.R. 107.3;

10

11 (x) "Operator" means a person operating or
12 flying an unmanned aircraft;

13

14 ~~(ix)~~ (xi) "This act" means W.S. 10-1-101 through
15 10-6-104.

16

17 **10-3-201. Powers and duties generally.**

18

19 (e) The commission shall assist communities in
20 coordinating efforts, facilitating, recruiting and
21 attracting and promoting the development, improvement and
22 retention of commercial air service and accommodating
23 military air service in the state. The assistance may

1 include studying airline, ~~and~~ aircraft and unmanned
2 aircraft profitability, route analysis, air fare monitoring
3 and recommendations for legislative changes to enhance air
4 services in the state.

5
6 (j) The commission may promulgate reasonable rules
7 restricting the time, place and manner of unmanned aircraft
8 operation at less than two hundred (200) feet above ground
9 level or within two hundred (200) feet of a permanent
10 structure. By rule, the commission may exempt from
11 regulation unmanned aircraft that fall below defined weight
12 requirements. In addition, the commission may promulgate
13 rules governing notification, permitting and authorization
14 of flight of unmanned aircraft. Unless otherwise provided
15 by federal law, rules authorized by this subsection
16 include:

17
18 (i) Limitations on speed to protect public
19 safety or restrict noise pollution;

20
21 (ii) Prohibitions on overflights of schools,
22 parks, roadways or other public or private property to

1 protect privacy or public safety or restrict noise
2 pollution;

3
4 (iii) Restrictions on operations at certain
5 times of day or week, or during parades, sporting events or
6 other special events;

7
8 (iv) Prohibitions on operations under the
9 influence of drugs or alcohol;

10
11 (v) Prohibitions on careless or reckless
12 operations;

13
14 (vi) Any other similar prohibitions or
15 restrictions.

16
17 **10-3-301. Conducting investigations and hearings;**
18 **accidents to be reported.**

19
20 The commission may conduct investigations, inquiries and
21 hearings concerning the laws of this state relating to
22 aeronautics and accidents or injuries incident to the
23 operation of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft,

1 occurring within this state. Members of the commission may
2 administer oaths and affirmations, certify to all official
3 acts, issue subpoenas and compel the attendance and
4 testimony of witnesses and the production of papers, books
5 and documents. All accidents or injuries incident to the
6 operation of aircraft occurring within this state shall be
7 immediately reported to the commission.

8
9 **10-4-303. Low or dangerous flight; landing on land or**
10 **water of another.**

11
12 (a) Flight ~~in~~of aircraft, including unmanned
13 aircraft, over the lands and waters of this state is lawful
14 unless it is:

15
16 (b) The landing of an aircraft, including an unmanned
17 aircraft, on the lands or waters of another, without his
18 consent, is unlawful, except in the case of a forced
19 landing. For damages caused by a forced landing, however,
20 the owner, operator or lessee of the aircraft or the airman
21 shall be liable for actual damage caused by the forced
22 landing.

23

