

SENATE FILE NO. SF0132

Protecting critical infrastructure and systems from drones.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Jones, Anderson, Biteman, Cooper, Dockstader, Driskill, Hicks, Kolb, Landen, McKeown, Rothfuss, Schuler and Steinmetz and Representative(s) Banks, Brown, G, Byron, Davis, Erickson, Geringer, Heiner, Jarvis, Knapp, Larson, JT, Neiman, Ottman, Thayer and Wylie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to defense forces and affairs; prohibiting
2 the use and operation of unmanned aircraft systems over
3 critical infrastructure and critical systems; specifying
4 exceptions; providing and amending penalties; authorizing
5 the use of the Wyoming national guard; providing
6 definitions; making conforming amendments; and providing
7 for an effective date.

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

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-13-503 is created to read:

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ARTICLE 5

1 PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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3 19-13-503. Unlawful operation of unmanned aircraft
4 systems over critical infrastructure and systems
5 prohibited; permitted actions by law enforcement.

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7 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
8 section, no person shall operate or use an unmanned
9 aircraft system over or near critical infrastructure or a
10 critical system:

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12 (i) To intentionally photograph critical
13 infrastructure or a critical system;

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15 (ii) To intentionally loiter over or near
16 critical infrastructure or a critical system; or

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18 (iii) In furtherance of any other criminal
19 offense.

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21 (b) This section shall not apply to:

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1 (i) A person authorized by the federal aviation
2 administration to operate or use an unmanned aircraft
3 system if the person's operation or use complies with the
4 authorization granted or with rules promulgated by the
5 federal aviation administration;

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7 (ii) A governmental entity's use of an unmanned
8 aircraft system owned by the governmental entity;

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10 (iii) The use of an unmanned aircraft system by
11 the owner or the owner's agent of critical infrastructure
12 or a critical system on or near the owner's critical
13 infrastructure or critical system;

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15 (iv) The operation or use of model aircraft
16 within a public park owned or operated by a governmental
17 entity;

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19 (v) The use of an unmanned aircraft system by a
20 law enforcement agency, emergency medical service agency,
21 hazardous materials response team, disaster management
22 agency or other emergency management agency for the purpose
23 of incident command, area reconnaissance, personnel and

1 equipment deployment monitoring, training or a related
2 purpose.

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4 (c) A person who violates subsection (a) of this
5 section is guilty of:

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7 (i) A misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment not
8 to exceed six (6) months, a fine not to exceed two thousand
9 five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), or both, for a first
10 offense;

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12 (ii) A felony punishable by imprisonment not to
13 exceed two (2) years, a fine not to exceed five thousand
14 dollars (\$5,000.00), or both, for a second or subsequent
15 offense.

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17 (d) A peace officer or law enforcement official may
18 take or authorize the use of reasonable actions to prevent
19 or stop the use of unmanned aircraft systems operating in
20 violation of this section. For purposes of this subsection,
21 reasonable actions may include disabling, damaging or
22 removing the unmanned aircraft system from the prohibited
23 location.

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2 (e) The governor may order the national guard of
3 Wyoming to assist in taking or using reasonable actions to
4 prevent or stop the use of unmanned aircraft systems
5 operating in violation of this section, in accordance with
6 W.S. 19-9-207.

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8 **Section 2.** W.S. 10-4-303 by creating a new subsection
9 (d), 19-9-207(a) by creating a new paragraph (iv) and by
10 renumbering (iv) as (v) and 19-13-501(a) by creating new
11 paragraphs (vi) through (viii) are amended to read:

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13 **10-4-303. Low or dangerous flight; landing on land or**
14 **water of another; penalties and remedies.**

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16 (d) A person who operates or uses an unmanned
17 aircraft in a manner that is not lawful under subsection
18 (a) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
19 punishable by imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months, a
20 fine not to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00),
21 or both.

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1 19-9-207. Suppressing tumult; preserving order,
2 insuring public safety; expenses; creation of additional
3 units; draft.

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5 (a) The governor may order any designated person or
6 commanding officer of any military unit to appear with or
7 without his command at a time and place specified to:

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9 (iv) Prevent or stop the use of unmanned
10 aircraft systems violating W.S. 19-13-503;

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12 ~~(iv)~~(v) Perform such other duties as the
13 commander in chief may require and which the militia or
14 national guard may lawfully perform.

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16 19-13-501. Definitions.

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18 (a) As used in this article:

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20 (vi) "Critical system" means any one (1) or more
21 of the following:

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23 (A) A petroleum refinery;

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(B) A petroleum, chemical or rubber production, transportation, storage or processing facility;

(C) A chemical manufacturing facility;

(D) A water or wastewater treatment facility and water development, distribution or conveyance system, including a dam;

(E) An electric generation facility and any associated substation or switchyard;

(F) An electrical transmission or distribution substation;

(G) An electrical transmission line of not less than sixty-nine thousand (69,000) volts;

(H) An electronic communication station or tower;

(J) An energy control center;

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(K) A distribution operating center;

(M) A facility that transfers or distributes natural gas, including a compressor station, regulator station, city gate station or pressure-limiting station or a liquefied natural gas facility or supplier tap facility;

(N) Any railroad infrastructure or facility;

(O) A federal, state, county, chancery or municipal court;

(P) A public safety or emergency operation facility;

(Q) A federal, state, county or municipal jail or correctional facility or any other facility where persons are incarcerated;

1 (R) A federal or state military
2 installation or facility;

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4 (S) A hospital that receives air ambulance
5 services.

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7 (vii) "Model aircraft" means as defined in
8 section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of
9 2012, P.L. 112-95;

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11 (viii) "Unmanned aircraft system" means as
12 defined by W.S. 6-5-214(a)(iii).

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14 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)