

2016 UAV Report to Government Operations Interim Committee

Statutory requirement under 63G-18-105 that requires the Department of Public Safety to transmit a report to the Government Operations Interim Committee containing a summary of the information reported to the department regarding unmanned aircraft systems (or UAV) use by law enforcement agencies, the total number of warrants authorizing the operation of a UAV, and the number of denied warrants for the operation of a UAV.

The only agency that submitted a report regarding UAV use from May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016, was DEM. A report outlining the flight information that was submitted is included. DPS discontinued UAV flights last spring as a result of our becoming aware that a certificate of authorization (COA) was required from the FAA in order to fly. Since that time, we were advised that the UAV's could be flown if hobbyist regulations were adhered to. We are currently working through the process of obtaining authorization to fly from the FAA. One of the challenges we are experiencing is the FAA requirement that a UAV pilot be a certified pilot in order to obtain the COA. It is unknown whether or not other law enforcement agencies have obtained authorization from the FAA, or if they are flying UAV's as no reports were submitted to DPS.

There were no reports submitted to DPS regarding the cost for a UAV program or source of funding that may have been provided.