

UNMANNED VEHICLE AMENDMENTS

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: David E. Lifferth

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill permits a public safety official to neutralize an unmanned vehicle that interferes with a response to an emergency.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ permits a public safety official to neutralize an unmanned vehicle that interferes with a response to an emergency.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

63G-18a-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

63G-18a-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

63G-18a-201, Utah Code Annotated 1953

63G-18a-202, Utah Code Annotated 1953

63G-18a-203, Utah Code Annotated 1953



28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **63G-18a-101** is enacted to read:

30 **CHAPTER 18a. UNMANNED VEHICLES**

31 **Part 1. General Provisions**

32 **63G-18a-101. Title.**

33 This chapter is known as "Unmanned Vehicles."

34 Section 2. Section **63G-18a-102** is enacted to read:

35 **63G-18a-102. Definitions.**

36 As used in this chapter:

37 (1) "Acute emergency" means a fire, a flood, extreme weather, a missing person
38 situation, or a natural or man-made disaster that is expected to present an imminent threat to
39 life or property, or to public health, safety, or welfare for more than 24 hours.

40 (2) "Neutralize" means to force the termination of the operation of an unmanned
41 vehicle by:

42 (a) disabling or damaging the unmanned vehicle;

43 (b) interfering with any portion of the unmanned vehicle system associated with the
44 unmanned vehicle; or

45 (c) otherwise taking control of the unmanned vehicle or the unmanned vehicle system
46 associated with the unmanned vehicle.

47 (3) "Public safety official" means:

48 (a) a sworn and certified peace officer; or

49 (b) a firefighter who is:

50 (i) a member of a fire department or another public organization that provides fire
51 suppression service; and

52 (ii) authorized by the department or a public organization described in Subsection
53 (3)(b)(i) to neutralize an unmanned vehicle.

54 (4) (a) "Unmanned vehicle" means a device that:

55 (i) is self propelled;

56 (ii) may travel on land, through air, or on or under water; and

57 (iii) is operated with no possible direct human intervention from on or within the
58 device.

59 (b) "Unmanned vehicle" does not include a device used exclusively on stationary rails
60 or tracks.

61 (5) "Unmanned vehicle system" means the entire system used to operate an unmanned
62 vehicle, including:

- 63 (a) the unmanned vehicle, including payload;
- 64 (b) communications equipment;
- 65 (c) navigation equipment;
- 66 (d) controllers;
- 67 (e) support equipment; and
- 68 (f) autopilot functionality.

69 Section 3. Section **63G-18a-201** is enacted to read:

70 **Part 2. Restricted Use**

71 **63G-18a-201. Title.**

72 This part is known as "Restricted Use."

73 Section 4. Section **63G-18a-202** is enacted to read:

74 **63G-18a-202. Reserved.**

75 Reserved

76 Section 5. Section **63G-18a-203** is enacted to read:

77 **63G-18a-203. Unmanned vehicles and emergency operations.**

78 (1) Subject to the requirements of this section, a public safety official may neutralize an
79 unmanned vehicle that operates within three miles of the location of an acute emergency if
80 neutralizing the unmanned vehicle is reasonably necessary to:

- 81 (a) protect an individual or property from hazards associated with the acute emergency;
- 82 (b) provide a safe environment for emergency response vehicles and personnel to
83 operate;
- 84 (c) prevent unsafe congestion of aircraft above or around the acute emergency; or
- 85 (d) protect a flight path of an aircraft being used to respond to the acute emergency.

86 (2) A public safety official may not neutralize an unmanned vehicle under this section
87 if neutralizing the unmanned vehicle:

- 88 (a) could reasonably cause or lead to the death of, or bodily injury to, a human; or
- 89 (b) is likely to cause or lead to:

- 90 (i) the death of, or bodily injury to, an animal; or
91 (ii) damage to private property, other than the unmanned vehicle, in an amount greater
92 than \$5,000.
- 93 (3) A public safety official who neutralizes an unmanned vehicle in accordance with
94 this section shall neutralize the unmanned vehicle:
- 95 (a) in the most safe and practicable manner available; and
96 (b) in a manner that causes as little damage or destruction as possible, in light of the
97 circumstances, to the unmanned vehicle and other property.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel