UNMANNED AIRCRAFT REVISIONS

2018 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Dixon M. Pitcher
Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner

LONG TITLE

General Description:
This bill prohibits certain operations of an unmanned aircraft system related to correctional facilities.

Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
- defines "correctional facility";
- prohibits the operation of an unmanned aircraft system:
  - to deliver any item to or inside the property of a correctional facility; or
  - in a manner that interferes with the operations or security of a correctional facility;
- exempts an unmanned aircraft system that is operating in the course and scope of an operation of a mosquito abatement district; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None

Other Special Clauses:
None

Utah Code Sections Affected:
AMENDS:
- 72-14-102, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 364
ENACTS:
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 72-14-102 is amended to read:

72-14-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Airport" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-10-102.

(2) "Airport operator" means the same as that term is defined in Section 72-10-102.

(3) "Correctional facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-16b-102.

(4) "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft that is:

(a) capable of sustaining flight; and

(b) operated with no possible direct human intervention from on or within the aircraft.

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

(a) the unmanned aircraft, including payload;

(b) communications equipment;

(c) navigation equipment;

(d) controllers;

(e) support equipment; and

(f) autopilot functionality.

Section 2. Section 72-14-304 is enacted to read:

72-14-304. Unlawful operation of unmanned aircraft near prison facilities -- Penalties.

(1) An individual may not operate an unmanned aircraft system:

(a) to carry or drop any item to or inside the property of a correctional facility; or

(b) in a manner that interferes with the operations or security of a correctional facility.
(2) (a) A violation of Subsection (1)(a) is a third degree felony.

(b) A violation of Subsection (1)(b) is a class B misdemeanor.

(3) An operator of an unmanned aircraft system does not violate Subsection (1) if the operator is:

(a) an employee or contractor working on behalf of a mosquito abatement district created pursuant to Title 17B, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Local Districts, or Title 17D, Limited Purpose Local Government Entities - Other Entities; and

(b) acting in the course and scope of the operator's employment.