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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Christie signs more than 100 bills into law - Pensions, drones, bump stocks: Highlights of bills Christie signed into law," The Press of Atlantic City, January 16, 2018

"Christie era ends with a flurry of bills to sign - Outdoing Governor approves regulations for drones, disbands SPCA and more," The Times, January 16, 2018

"Chris Christie's final acts: Bills he made law and killed, from drones to circus animals," nj.com, January 16, 2018

"Highlights from a busy last day," Hunterdon County Democrat, January 18, 2018

RH/CL

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 315, *approved January 16, 2018*
Senate, No. 3370 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the operation of unmanned aircraft systems and
2 amending and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. (New section) a. As used in this act:

8 “Operate” means to fly, control, direct, or program the flight of
9 an unmanned aircraft system.

10 “Unmanned aircraft” means an aircraft that is operated without
11 the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the
12 aircraft.

13 “Unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned aircraft and
14 associated elements, including communication links and the
15 components that control the unmanned aircraft, that are required for
16 the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently.

17 b. Except as otherwise prohibited by P.L. , c. (C.)
18 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a person who is
19 authorized by federal law to operate an unmanned aircraft system
20 may operate an unmanned aircraft system in this State for any
21 purpose, provided that the person operates the unmanned aircraft
22 system in a manner consistent with applicable federal law and
23 regulations. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect
24 federal preemption of State law regarding aviation.

25 For purposes of this subsection, “person” means an individual,
26 partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other
27 legal or commercial entity.

28 c. An owner or operator of a critical infrastructure, including a
29 political subdivision, may apply to the Administrator of the Federal
30 Aviation Administration, pursuant to section 2209 of the “FAA
31 Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016,” Pub.L.114-190, in
32 order to prohibit or restrict the operation of unmanned aircraft
33 systems in close proximity to the critical infrastructure.

34 Prior to applying to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
35 Administration to prohibit or restrict the operation of unmanned
36 aircraft systems in close proximity to a critical infrastructure, a
37 political subdivision shall hold a minimum of one public hearing,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted November 30, 2017.

1 with adequate notice to the public, concerning the proposed
2 application.

3
4 2. (New section) a. A person commits a disorderly persons
5 offense if he knowingly or intentionally operates as defined in
6 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
7 as this bill) an unmanned aircraft system as defined in section 1 of
8 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) in
9 a manner that endangers the life or property of another. In making
10 this determination, the court shall consider the standards for safe
11 operation of small unmanned aircraft systems prescribed by federal
12 law or regulation.

13 b. (1) A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
14 knowingly or intentionally creates or maintains a condition which
15 endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by
16 operating an unmanned aircraft system on the premises of or in
17 close proximity to that facility without license or privilege to do so.

18 (2) A person commits a crime of the third degree if he
19 knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft system to conduct
20 surveillance of, or gather information about, a correctional facility
21 without license or privilege to do so.

22 For purposes of this subsection, “correctional facility” means a
23 jail, prison, lockup, penitentiary, reformatory, training school, or
24 other similar facility within the State of New Jersey.

25 c. A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
26 knowingly or intentionally operates an unmanned aircraft system in
27 a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively
28 engaged in response or actively engaged in air, water, vehicular,
29 ground, or specialized transport.

30 For purposes of this subsection “first responder” means a law
31 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
32 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
33 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
34 of his employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle
35 accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing
36 medical care or other assistance.

37 d. A person commits a disorderly persons offense if he
38 knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft system or uses an
39 unmanned aircraft system to take or assist in the taking of wildlife.

40 e. A person commits a disorderly persons offense if he operates
41 an unmanned aircraft system while under the influence of
42 intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing
43 drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by
44 weight of alcohol in the defendant’s blood.

45 f. It shall be a violation of any restraining order issued by the
46 court pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1999, c.47 (C.2C:12-10.2),
47 section 3 or 4 of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-15 or C.2C:14-16),
48 section 12 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-28), section 4 of P.L.1999,

1 c.334 (C.2C:35-5.7), or any other court order restraining contact
2 with a person or location, for a person subject to that order to
3 knowingly operate an unmanned aircraft system to fly within a
4 distance of a person or location that would violate that restraining
5 order.

6 g. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other
7 law to the contrary, a conviction under this section shall not merge
8 with a conviction of harassment pursuant to N.J.S.2C:33-4, stalking
9 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10), invasion of
10 privacy pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2003, c.206 (C.2C:14-9),
11 obstructing administration of law or other governmental function
12 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:29-1, introducing contraband pursuant to
13 N.J.S.2C:29-6, contempt of a domestic violence order pursuant to
14 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:29-9 which constitutes a crime or
15 disorderly persons offense, or any other criminal offense, even if
16 any other conviction involves the use of an unmanned aircraft
17 system, nor shall the other conviction merge with a conviction
18 under this section.

19

20 3. Section 2 of P.L.1994, c.130 (C.2C:43-6.4) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a
23 judge imposing sentence on a person who has been convicted of
24 aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual
25 contact, kidnapping pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection c. of
26 N.J.S.2C:13-1, endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in
27 sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the child
28 pursuant to subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:24-4, endangering the welfare of
29 a child pursuant to paragraph (3) ¹or sub-subparagraph (i) or (ii) of
30 subparagraph (b) of paragraph (5)¹ of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-4,
31 luring, violating a condition of a special sentence of community
32 supervision for life pursuant to subsection d. of this section, or an
33 attempt to commit any of these offenses shall include, in addition to
34 any sentence authorized by this Code, a special sentence of parole
35 supervision for life. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
36 contrary, a court imposing sentence on a person who has been
37 convicted of endangering the welfare of a child pursuant to paragraph
38 (4) or ¹sub-subparagraph (iii) of subparagraph (b) of paragraph¹ (5) of
39 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-4, ¹leader of a child pornography
40 network pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2017, c.141 (C.2C:24-4.1),¹ or an
41 attempt to commit either of these offenses shall include, upon motion
42 of the prosecutor, a special sentence of parole supervision for life in
43 addition to any sentence authorized by Title 2C of the New Jersey
44 Statutes, unless the court finds on the record that the special sentence
45 is not needed to protect the community or deter the defendant from
46 future criminal activity.

1 b. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required by
2 this section shall commence immediately upon the defendant's release
3 from incarceration. If the defendant is serving a sentence of
4 incarceration for another offense at the time he completes the custodial
5 portion of the sentence imposed on the present offense, the special
6 sentence of parole supervision for life shall not commence until the
7 defendant is actually released from incarceration for the other offense.
8 Persons serving a special sentence of parole supervision for life shall
9 remain in the legal custody of the Commissioner of Corrections, shall
10 be supervised by the Division of Parole of the State Parole Board, shall
11 be subject to the provisions and conditions set forth in subsection c. of
12 section 3 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b) and sections 15 through
13 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.59 through 30:4-123.63 and
14 30:4-123.65), and shall be subject to conditions appropriate to protect
15 the public and foster rehabilitation. Such conditions may include the
16 requirement that the person comply with the conditions set forth in
17 subsection f. of this section concerning use of a computer or other
18 device with access to the Internet or the conditions set forth in
19 subsection g. of this section concerning the operation as defined in
20 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
21 this bill) of an unmanned aircraft system as defined in section 1 of
22 P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). If the
23 defendant violates a condition of a special sentence of parole
24 supervision for life, the defendant shall be subject to the provisions of
25 sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.60
26 through 30:4-123.63 and 30:4-123.65), and for the purpose of
27 calculating the limitation on time served pursuant to section 21 of
28 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.65) the custodial term imposed upon the
29 defendant related to the special sentence of parole supervision for life
30 shall be deemed to be a term of life imprisonment. When the court
31 suspends the imposition of sentence on a defendant who has been
32 convicted of any offense enumerated in subsection a. of this section,
33 the court may not suspend imposition of the special sentence of parole
34 supervision for life, which shall commence immediately, with the
35 Division of Parole of the State Parole Board maintaining supervision
36 over that defendant, including the defendant's compliance with any
37 conditions imposed by the court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:45-1, in
38 accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Nothing contained
39 in this subsection shall prevent the court from at any time proceeding
40 under the provisions of N.J.S.2C:45-1 through ¹[2C:45-4]
41 N.J.S.2C:45-4¹ against any such defendant for a violation of any
42 conditions imposed by the court when it suspended imposition of
43 sentence, or prevent the Division of Parole from proceeding under the
44 provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441
45 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and C.30:4-123.65) against any
46 such defendant for a violation of any conditions of the special sentence
47 of parole supervision for life, including the conditions imposed by the
48 court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:45-1. In any such proceeding by the

1 Division of Parole, the provisions of subsection c. of section 3 of
2 P.L.1997, c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b) authorizing revocation and return to
3 prison shall be applicable to such a defendant, notwithstanding that the
4 defendant may not have been sentenced to or served any portion of a
5 custodial term for conviction of an offense enumerated in subsection a.
6 of this section.

7 c. A person sentenced to a term of parole supervision for life may
8 petition the Superior Court for release from that parole supervision.
9 The judge may grant a petition for release from a special sentence of
10 parole supervision for life only upon proof by clear and convincing
11 evidence that the person has not committed a crime for 15 years since
12 the last conviction or release from incarceration, whichever is later,
13 and that the person is not likely to pose a threat to the safety of others
14 if released from parole supervision. Notwithstanding the provisions of
15 section 22 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.66), a person sentenced to a
16 term of parole supervision for life may be released from that parole
17 supervision term only by court order as provided in this subsection.

18 d. A person who violates a condition of a special sentence of
19 community supervision for life or parole supervision for life imposed
20 pursuant to this section without good cause is guilty of a crime of the
21 third degree. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a person
22 sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall be sentenced to a term of
23 imprisonment, unless the court is clearly convinced that the interests of
24 justice so far outweigh the need to deter this conduct and the interest in
25 public safety that a sentence to imprisonment would be a manifest
26 injustice. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude subjecting a person
27 who violates any condition of a special sentence of parole supervision
28 for life to the provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979,
29 c.441 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and C.30:4-123.65)
30 pursuant to the provisions of subsection c. of section 3 of P.L.1997,
31 c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b).

32 e. A person who, while serving a special sentence of parole
33 supervision for life imposed pursuant to this section, commits a
34 violation of N.J.S.2C:11-3, N.J.S.2C:11-4, N.J.S.2C:11-5, subsection
35 b. of N.J.S.2C:12-1, N.J.S.2C:13-1, section 1 of P.L.1993, c.291
36 (C.2C:13-6), N.J.S.2C:14-2, N.J.S.2C:14-3, N.J.S.2C:24-4, ¹section 8
37 of P.L.2017, c.141 (C.2C:24-4.1),¹ N.J.S.2C:18-2 when the offense is
38 a crime of the second degree, or subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-4 shall
39 be sentenced to an extended term of imprisonment as set forth in
40 N.J.S.2C:43-7, which term shall, notwithstanding the provisions of
41 N.J.S.2C:43-7 or any other law, be served in its entirety prior to the
42 person's resumption of the term of parole supervision for life.

43 f. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required by
44 this section may include any of the following Internet access
45 conditions:

46 (1) Prohibit the person from accessing or using a computer or any
47 other device with Internet capability without the prior written approval
48 of the court except the person may use a computer or any other device

1 with Internet capability in connection with that person's employment
2 or search for employment with the prior approval of the person's
3 parole officer;

4 (2) Require the person to submit to periodic unannounced
5 examinations of the person's computer or any other device with
6 Internet capability by a parole officer, law enforcement officer or
7 assigned computer or information technology specialist, including the
8 retrieval and copying of all data from the computer or device and any
9 internal or external peripherals and removal of such information,
10 equipment or device to conduct a more thorough inspection;

11 (3) Require the person to submit to the installation on the person's
12 computer or device with Internet capability, at the person's expense,
13 one or more hardware or software systems to monitor the Internet use;

14 (4) Require the person to submit to any other appropriate
15 restrictions concerning the person's use or access of a computer or any
16 other device with Internet capability; and

17 (5) Require the person to disclose all passwords used by the person
18 to access any data, information, image, program, signal or file on the
19 person's computer or any other device with Internet capability.

20 g. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required by
21 this section may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or
22 restricting the person's operation of an unmanned aircraft system in
23 order to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of criminal or delinquent
24 behavior.

25 (cf: P.L.2017, c.141, s.5)

26

27 4. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.11 (C.23:7A-2) is amended to read
28 as follows:

29 2. No person may, for the purpose of hindering or preventing
30 the lawful taking of wildlife:

31 a. block, obstruct, or impede, or attempt to block, obstruct, or
32 impede, a person lawfully taking wildlife;

33 b. erect a barrier with the intent to deny ingress to or egress
34 from areas where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

35 c. make, or attempt to make, unauthorized physical contact
36 with a person lawfully taking wildlife;

37 d. engage in, or attempt to engage in, theft, vandalism, or
38 destruction of personal or real property;

39 e. disturb or alter, or attempt to disturb or alter, the condition
40 or authorized placement of personal or real property intended for
41 use in the lawful taking of wildlife;

42 f. enter or remain upon public lands or waters, or upon private
43 lands or waters without permission of the owner thereof or an agent
44 of that landowner, where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

45 g. make or attempt to make loud noises or gestures, set out or
46 attempt to set out animal baits, scents, or lures or human scent, use
47 any other natural or artificial visual, aural, olfactory, or physical
48 stimuli, or engage in or attempt to engage in any other similar

1 action or activity, in order to disturb, alarm, drive, attract, or affect
2 the behavior of wildlife or disturb, alarm, disrupt, or annoy a person
3 lawfully taking wildlife **[or]**

4 h. interject himself into the line of fire of a person lawfully
5 taking wildlife; or

6 i. operate as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) an unmanned aircraft
8 system as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill).

10 Subsections a., b., e., f., **[and]** g., and i. of this section shall not
11 apply to a law enforcement officer or conservation officer enforcing
12 the laws of this State or any local ordinance, or a private landowner
13 or agent thereof on land or waters owned by that private landowner
14 (cf: P.L.1993, c.11, s.2)

15

16 5. The provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill) shall preempt any law, ordinance,
18 resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body of a county
19 or municipality concerning the private use of an unmanned aircraft
20 system that is inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

21

22 6. Nothing in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
23 Legislature as this bill) shall prohibit the authorized use, in
24 compliance with applicable federal rules and regulations, of an
25 unmanned aircraft system by a public employee or a public entity,
26 or by a first responder in the performance of official duties.

27 For purposes of this section “first responder” means a law
28 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
29 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
30 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
31 of his employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle
32 accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing
33 medical care or other assistance.

34

35 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
36 next following the date of enactment.

37

38

39

40

41

Regulates and prohibits certain operation of drones.

SENATE, No. 3370

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2017

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Regulates and prohibits certain operation of drones.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/6/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning the operation of unmanned aircraft systems and
2 amending and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) a. As used in this act:

8 “Operate” means to fly, control, direct, or program the flight of
9 an unmanned aircraft system.

10 “Unmanned aircraft” means an aircraft that is operated without
11 the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the
12 aircraft.

13 “Unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned aircraft and
14 associated elements, including communication links and the
15 components that control the unmanned aircraft, that are required for
16 the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently.

17 b. Except as otherwise prohibited by P.L. , c. (C.)
18 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a person who is
19 authorized by federal law to operate an unmanned aircraft system
20 may operate an unmanned aircraft system in this State for any
21 purpose, provided that the person operates the unmanned aircraft
22 system in a manner consistent with applicable federal law and
23 regulations. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect
24 federal preemption of State law regarding aviation.

25 For purposes of this subsection, “person” means an individual,
26 partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other
27 legal or commercial entity.

28 c. An owner or operator of a critical infrastructure, including a
29 political subdivision, may apply to the Administrator of the Federal
30 Aviation Administration, pursuant to section 2209 of the “FAA
31 Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016,” Pub.L.114-190, in
32 order to prohibit or restrict the operation of unmanned aircraft
33 systems in close proximity to the critical infrastructure.

34 Prior to applying to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
35 Administration to prohibit or restrict the operation of unmanned
36 aircraft systems in close proximity to a critical infrastructure, a
37 political subdivision shall hold a minimum of one public hearing,
38 with adequate notice to the public, concerning the proposed
39 application.

40

41 2. (New section) a. A person commits a disorderly persons
42 offense if he knowingly or intentionally operates as defined in
43 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
44 as this bill) an unmanned aircraft system as defined in section 1 of
45 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) in

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 a manner that endangers the life or property of another. In making
2 this determination, the court shall consider the standards for safe
3 operation of small unmanned aircraft systems prescribed by federal
4 law or regulation.

5 b. (1) A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
6 knowingly or intentionally creates or maintains a condition which
7 endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by
8 operating an unmanned aircraft system on the premises of or in
9 close proximity to that facility without license or privilege to do so.

10 (2) A person commits a crime of the third degree if he
11 knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft system to conduct
12 surveillance of, or gather information about, a correctional facility
13 without license or privilege to do so.

14 For purposes of this subsection, "correctional facility" means a
15 jail, prison, lockup, penitentiary, reformatory, training school, or
16 other similar facility within the State of New Jersey.

17 c. A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
18 knowingly or intentionally operates an unmanned aircraft system in
19 a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively
20 engaged in response or actively engaged in air, water, vehicular,
21 ground, or specialized transport.

22 For purposes of this subsection "first responder" means a law
23 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
24 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
25 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
26 of his employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle
27 accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing
28 medical care or other assistance.

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30 knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft system or uses an
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33 an unmanned aircraft system while under the influence of
34 intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing
35 drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by
36 weight of alcohol in the defendant's blood.

37 f. It shall be a violation of any restraining order issued by the
38 court pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1999, c.47 (C.2C:12-10.2),
39 section 3 or 4 of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-15 or C.2C:14-16),
40 section 12 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-28), section 4 of P.L.1999,
41 c.334 (C.2C:35-5.7), or any other court order restraining contact
42 with a person or location, for a person subject to that order to
43 knowingly operate an unmanned aircraft system to fly within a
44 distance of a person or location that would violate that restraining
45 order.

46 g. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other
47 law to the contrary, a conviction under this section shall not merge
48 with a conviction of harassment pursuant to N.J.S.2C:33-4, stalking

1 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10), invasion of
2 privacy pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2003, c.206 (C.2C:14-9),
3 obstructing administration of law or other governmental function
4 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:29-1, introducing contraband pursuant to
5 N.J.S.2C:29-6, contempt of a domestic violence order pursuant to
6 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:29-9 which constitutes a crime or
7 disorderly persons offense, or any other criminal offense, even if
8 any other conviction involves the use of an unmanned aircraft
9 system, nor shall the other conviction merge with a conviction
10 under this section.

11

12 3. Section 2 of P.L.1994, c.130 (C.2C:43-6.4) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a
15 judge imposing sentence on a person who has been convicted of
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17 sexual contact, kidnapping pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection
18 c. of N.J.S.2C:13-1, endangering the welfare of a child by engaging
19 in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the
20 child pursuant to subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:24-4, endangering the
21 welfare of a child pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection b. of
22 N.J.S.2C:24-4, luring, violating a condition of a special sentence of
23 community supervision for life pursuant to subsection d. of this
24 section, or an attempt to commit any of these offenses shall include,
25 in addition to any sentence authorized by this Code, a special
26 sentence of parole supervision for life. Notwithstanding any
27 provision of law to the contrary, a court imposing sentence on a
28 person who has been convicted of endangering the welfare of a
29 child pursuant to paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection b. of
30 N.J.S.2C:24-4, or an attempt to commit either of these offenses
31 shall include, upon motion of the prosecutor, a special sentence of
32 parole supervision for life in addition to any sentence authorized by
33 Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, unless the court finds on the
34 record that the special sentence is not needed to protect the
35 community or deter the defendant from future criminal activity.

36 b. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required
37 by this section shall commence immediately upon the defendant's
38 release from incarceration. If the defendant is serving a sentence of
39 incarceration for another offense at the time he completes the
40 custodial portion of the sentence imposed on the present offense,
41 the special sentence of parole supervision for life shall not
42 commence until the defendant is actually released from
43 incarceration for the other offense. Persons serving a special
44 sentence of parole supervision for life shall remain in the legal
45 custody of the Commissioner of Corrections, shall be supervised by
46 the Division of Parole of the State Parole Board, shall be subject to
47 the provisions and conditions set forth in subsection c. of section 3
48 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b) and sections 15 through 19 and

1 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.59 through 30:4-123.63 and
2 30:4-123.65), and shall be subject to conditions appropriate to
3 protect the public and foster rehabilitation. Such conditions may
4 include the requirement that the person comply with the conditions
5 set forth in subsection f. of this section concerning use of a
6 computer or other device with access to the Internet or the
7 conditions set forth in subsection g. of this section concerning the
8 operation as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill) of an unmanned aircraft system
10 as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
11 Legislature as this bill). If the defendant violates a condition of a
12 special sentence of parole supervision for life, the defendant shall
13 be subject to the provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of
14 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and 30:4-
15 123.65), and for the purpose of calculating the limitation on time
16 served pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.65)
17 the custodial term imposed upon the defendant related to the special
18 sentence of parole supervision for life shall be deemed to be a term
19 of life imprisonment. When the court suspends the imposition of
20 sentence on a defendant who has been convicted of any offense
21 enumerated in subsection a. of this section, the court may not
22 suspend imposition of the special sentence of parole supervision for
23 life, which shall commence immediately, with the Division of
24 Parole of the State Parole Board maintaining supervision over that
25 defendant, including the defendant's compliance with any
26 conditions imposed by the court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:45-1, in
27 accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Nothing
28 contained in this subsection shall prevent the court from at any time
29 proceeding under the provisions of N.J.S.2C:45-1 through 2C:45-4
30 against any such defendant for a violation of any conditions
31 imposed by the court when it suspended imposition of sentence, or
32 prevent the Division of Parole from proceeding under the provisions
33 of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.60
34 through 30:4-123.63 and C.30:4-123.65) against any such defendant
35 for a violation of any conditions of the special sentence of parole
36 supervision for life, including the conditions imposed by the court
37 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:45-1. In any such proceeding by the Division
38 of Parole, the provisions of subsection c. of section 3 of P.L.1997,
39 c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b) authorizing revocation and return to prison
40 shall be applicable to such a defendant, notwithstanding that the
41 defendant may not have been sentenced to or served any portion of
42 a custodial term for conviction of an offense enumerated in
43 subsection a. of this section.

44 c. A person sentenced to a term of parole supervision for life
45 may petition the Superior Court for release from that parole
46 supervision. The judge may grant a petition for release from a
47 special sentence of parole supervision for life only upon proof by
48 clear and convincing evidence that the person has not committed a

1 crime for 15 years since the last conviction or release from
2 incarceration, whichever is later, and that the person is not likely to
3 pose a threat to the safety of others if released from parole
4 supervision. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 22 of
5 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.66), a person sentenced to a term of
6 parole supervision for life may be released from that parole
7 supervision term only by court order as provided in this subsection.

8 d. A person who violates a condition of a special sentence of
9 community supervision for life or parole supervision for life
10 imposed pursuant to this section without good cause is guilty of a
11 crime of the third degree. Notwithstanding any other law to the
12 contrary, a person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall be
13 sentenced to a term of imprisonment, unless the court is clearly
14 convinced that the interests of justice so far outweigh the need to
15 deter this conduct and the interest in public safety that a sentence to
16 imprisonment would be a manifest injustice. Nothing in this
17 subsection shall preclude subjecting a person who violates any
18 condition of a special sentence of parole supervision for life to the
19 provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441
20 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and C.30:4-123.65) pursuant to
21 the provisions of subsection c. of section 3 of P.L.1997, c.117
22 (C.30:4-123.51b).

23 e. A person who, while serving a special sentence of parole
24 supervision for life imposed pursuant to this section, commits a
25 violation of N.J.S.2C:11-3, N.J.S.2C:11-4, N.J.S.2C:11-5,
26 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:12-1, N.J.S.2C:13-1, section 1 of
27 P.L.1993, c.291 (C.2C:13-6), N.J.S.2C:14-2, N.J.S.2C:14-3,
28 N.J.S.2C:24-4, N.J.S.2C:18-2 when the offense is a crime of the
29 second degree, or subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-4 shall be sentenced
30 to an extended term of imprisonment as set forth in N.J.S.2C:43-7,
31 which term shall, notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:43-7
32 or any other law, be served in its entirety prior to the person's
33 resumption of the term of parole supervision for life.

34 f. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required
35 by this section may include any of the following Internet access
36 conditions:

37 (1) Prohibit the person from accessing or using a computer or
38 any other device with Internet capability without the prior written
39 approval of the court except the person may use a computer or any
40 other device with Internet capability in connection with that
41 person's employment or search for employment with the prior
42 approval of the person's parole officer;

43 (2) Require the person to submit to periodic unannounced
44 examinations of the person's computer or any other device with
45 Internet capability by a parole officer, law enforcement officer or
46 assigned computer or information technology specialist, including
47 the retrieval and copying of all data from the computer or device
48 and any internal or external peripherals and removal of such

1 information, equipment or device to conduct a more thorough
2 inspection;

3 (3) Require the person to submit to the installation on the
4 person's computer or device with Internet capability, at the person's
5 expense, one or more hardware or software systems to monitor the
6 Internet use;

7 (4) Require the person to submit to any other appropriate
8 restrictions concerning the person's use or access of a computer or
9 any other device with Internet capability; and

10 (5) Require the person to disclose all passwords used by the
11 person to access any data, information, image, program, signal or
12 file on the person's computer or any other device with Internet
13 capability.

14 g. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required
15 by this section may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or
16 restricting the person's operation of an unmanned aircraft system in
17 order to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of criminal or
18 delinquent behavior.

19 (cf: P.L.2013, c.214, s.4)

20

21 4. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.11 (C.23:7A-2) is amended to read
22 as follows:

23 2. No person may, for the purpose of hindering or preventing
24 the lawful taking of wildlife:

25 a. block, obstruct, or impede, or attempt to block, obstruct, or
26 impede, a person lawfully taking wildlife;

27 b. erect a barrier with the intent to deny ingress to or egress
28 from areas where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

29 c. make, or attempt to make, unauthorized physical contact
30 with a person lawfully taking wildlife;

31 d. engage in, or attempt to engage in, theft, vandalism, or
32 destruction of personal or real property;

33 e. disturb or alter, or attempt to disturb or alter, the condition
34 or authorized placement of personal or real property intended for
35 use in the lawful taking of wildlife;

36 f. enter or remain upon public lands or waters, or upon private
37 lands or waters without permission of the owner thereof or an agent
38 of that landowner, where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

39 g. make or attempt to make loud noises or gestures, set out or
40 attempt to set out animal baits, scents, or lures or human scent, use
41 any other natural or artificial visual, aural, olfactory, or physical
42 stimuli, or engage in or attempt to engage in any other similar
43 action or activity, in order to disturb, alarm, drive, attract, or affect
44 the behavior of wildlife or disturb, alarm, disrupt, or annoy a person
45 lawfully taking wildlife **[or]**

46 h. interject himself into the line of fire of a person lawfully
47 taking wildlife; or

1 i. operate as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
2 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) an unmanned aircraft
3 system as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
4 before the Legislature as this bill).

5 Subsections a., b., e., f., **[and]** g., and i. of this section shall not
6 apply to a law enforcement officer or conservation officer enforcing
7 the laws of this State or any local ordinance, or a private landowner
8 or agent thereof on land or waters owned by that private landowner
9 (cf: P.L.1993, c.11, s.2)

10

11 5. The provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill) shall preempt any law, ordinance,
13 resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body of a county
14 or municipality concerning the private use of an unmanned aircraft
15 system that is inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

16

17 6. Nothing in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
18 Legislature as this bill) shall prohibit the authorized use, in
19 compliance with applicable federal rules and regulations, of an
20 unmanned aircraft system by a public employee or a public entity,
21 or by a first responder in the performance of official duties.

22 For purposes of this section “first responder” means a law
23 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
24 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
25 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
26 of his employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle
27 accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing
28 medical care or other assistance.

29

30 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
31 next following the date of enactment.

32

33

34

STATEMENT

35

36 This bill regulates and prohibits the operation of unmanned
37 aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, under certain
38 circumstances.

39 Under the bill, it is a disorderly persons offense to operate a
40 drone: 1) knowingly or intentionally in a manner that endangers the
41 life or property of another; 2) to take or assist in the taking of
42 wildlife; and 3) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a
43 narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing drug or with a blood
44 alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol.
45 Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of
46 imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

47 The bill provides that it is a fourth degree crime for a person to
48 knowingly or intentionally: 1) create or maintain a condition that

1 endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by
2 operating a drone on the premises of or in close proximity to the
3 facility; and 2) operate a drone in a manner that interferes with a
4 first responder who is actively engaged in response or air, water,
5 vehicular, ground, or specialized transport. Fourth degree crimes
6 are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine
7 of up to \$10,000, or both.

8 Further, it is a third degree crime for a person to knowingly
9 operate a drone to conduct surveillance of or gather information
10 about a correctional facility. Third degree crimes are punishable by
11 a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to
12 \$15,000, or both.

13 In addition, the bill prohibits a person from operating a drone for
14 the purpose of hindering or preventing the lawful taking of wildlife.

15 The bill also provides that it is a violation of a restraining order
16 or any other court order restraining contact with a person or
17 location for a person who is subject to that order to operate a drone
18 within a distance of a person or location that would violate the
19 order.

20 The bill provides that a conviction under the bill is not to merge
21 with a conviction of harassment, stalking, invasion of privacy,
22 obstructing the administration of law or other governmental
23 function, introducing contraband into a correctional facility, certain
24 offenses of contempt of a domestic violence order, or any other
25 criminal offense even if the other conviction involves the use of a
26 drone.

27 In addition, under the bill, a special sentence of parole
28 supervision for life may include reasonable conditions prohibiting
29 or restricting a person's operation of a drone in order to reduce the
30 likelihood or recurrence of criminal or delinquent behavior.

31 The bill provides that, except as prohibited by the provisions of
32 the bill, a person who is authorized by federal law to operate a
33 drone may do so, provided that operation is in a manner consistent
34 with federal law and regulations.

35 Further, the bill provides that an owner or operator of a critical
36 infrastructure, including a political subdivision, may apply to the
37 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),
38 pursuant to the "FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016,"
39 Pub.L.114-190, in order to prohibit or restrict the operation of
40 drones in close proximity to the critical infrastructure. In the case
41 of a political subdivision, the political subdivision is required to
42 hold at least one public hearing concerning the proposed FAA
43 application.

44 Finally, the provisions of this bill are to preempt any law,
45 ordinance, resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body
46 of a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone
47 that is inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3370

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 20, 2017

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3370, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill regulates and prohibits the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, under certain circumstances.

Under the bill, it is a disorderly persons offense to operate a drone: 1) knowingly or intentionally in a manner that endangers the life or property of another; 2) to take or assist in the taking of wildlife; and 3) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol. Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

The bill provides that it is a fourth degree crime for a person to knowingly or intentionally: 1) create or maintain a condition that endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by operating a drone on the premises of or in close proximity to the facility; and 2) operate a drone in a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively engaged in response or air, water, vehicular, ground, or specialized transport. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

Further, it is a third degree crime for a person to knowingly operate a drone to conduct surveillance of or gather information about a correctional facility. Third degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

In addition, the bill prohibits a person from operating a drone for the purpose of hindering or preventing the lawful taking of wildlife.

The bill also provides that it is a violation of a restraining order or any other court order restraining contact with a person or location for a person who is subject to that order to operate a drone within a distance of a person or location that would violate the order.

The bill provides that a conviction under the bill is not to merge with a conviction of harassment, stalking, invasion of privacy, obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function, introducing contraband into a correctional facility, certain offenses of

contempt of a domestic violence order, or any other criminal offense even if the other conviction involves the use of a drone.

In addition, under the bill, a special sentence of parole supervision for life may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or restricting a person's operation of a drone to reduce the likelihood or recurrence of criminal or delinquent behavior.

The bill provides that, except as prohibited by the provisions of the bill, a person who is authorized by federal law to operate a drone may do so, provided that operation is in a manner consistent with federal law and regulations.

Further, the bill provides that an owner or operator of a critical infrastructure, including a political subdivision, may apply to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), pursuant to the "FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016," Pub.L.114-190, to prohibit or restrict the operation of drones in close proximity to the critical infrastructure. In the case of a political subdivision, the political subdivision is required to hold at least one public hearing concerning the proposed FAA application.

Finally, the provisions of this bill are to preempt any law, ordinance, resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body of a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone that is inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

The bill is scheduled to take effect on the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments technically update the drone use restriction section of the bill that applies to parole supervision for life to reflect the recent statutory changes to the underlying law made by P.L.2017, c.141 (concerning parole supervision for life for the recently added crime of leader of a child pornography network).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) anticipates that the State, county prosecutor's offices, local law enforcement agencies, and municipal courts will incur indeterminate additional annual operating expenses from enforcing, prosecuting, and trying the offenses established by the bill, and incarcerating any offenders. The State also may receive indeterminate additional annual revenue from fines and penalties imposed on and collected from individuals convicted of the offenses established by this bill.

However, the OLS lacks sufficient information to quantify the bill's fiscal impacts. It is unclear how many persons would be prosecuted, tried, and sentenced for the unlawful operation of a drone in fiscal years following enactment.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3370 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2017

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Regulates and prohibits certain operation of drones.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State and Local Government Expenditure and Revenue Increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety.
Department of Corrections.
Administrative Office of the Courts.
County and Municipal Governments.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Annual Increase in State Costs and Revenue	Indeterminate – See comments below.		
Annual Increase in Local Costs and Revenue	Indeterminate – See comments below.		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) anticipates that the State, county prosecutor's offices, local law enforcement agencies, and municipal courts will incur indeterminate additional annual operating expenses from enforcing, prosecuting, and trying the offenses established by the bill, and incarcerating any offenders.
- The State and municipal governments may receive indeterminate additional annual revenue from fines and penalties imposed on and collected from individuals convicted of the offenses established by this bill.
- The OLS lacks sufficient information to quantify the bill's fiscal impacts. It is unclear how many persons would be prosecuted, tried, and sentenced for the unlawful operation of a drone in fiscal years following enactment.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 3370 (1R) of 2017 regulates and prohibits the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, under certain circumstances.

It will be a disorderly persons offense to operate a drone: 1) knowingly or intentionally in a manner that endangers the life or property of another; 2) to take or assist in the taking of wildlife; and 3) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol. Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

It will be a fourth degree crime for a person to knowingly or intentionally: 1) create or maintain a condition that endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by operating a drone on the premises of or in close proximity to the facility; and 2) operate a drone in a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively engaged in response or air, water, vehicular, ground, or specialized transport. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

It will be a third degree crime for a person to knowingly operate a drone to conduct surveillance of or gather information about a correctional facility. Third degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

Moreover, it will be a violation of a restraining order or any other court order restraining contact with a person or location for a person who is subject to that order to operate a drone within a distance of a person or location that would violate the order.

In addition, a special sentence of parole supervision for life may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or restricting a person's operation of a drone in order to reduce the likelihood or recurrence of criminal or delinquent behavior.

Finally, the bill preempts any law, ordinance, resolution, or regulation adopted by a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone that is inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS anticipates that the State, county prosecutor's offices, local law enforcement agencies, and municipal courts will incur indeterminate additional annual operating expenses from enforcing, prosecuting, and trying the offenses established by the bill, and incarcerating any offenders. The State and municipal governments also may receive indeterminate additional annual revenue from fines and penalties imposed on and collected from individuals convicted of the offenses established by this bill.

However, the OLS lacks sufficient information to quantify the bill's fiscal impacts. It is unclear how many persons would be prosecuted, tried, and sentenced for the unlawful operation of a drone in fiscal years following enactment.

Expenditure Increases: The OLS estimates that the bill will produce indeterminate annual expenditure increases to the State, counties, and municipalities.

The bill's establishment of new crimes of the third degree, fourth degree, and disorderly persons offenses will increase the workload of the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, county prosecutor's offices, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and municipal courts, as additional defendants will be prosecuted and tried. Crimes of the third and fourth degree are adjudicated by the Superior Court. Disorderly person offenses are adjudicated by municipal court, in most circumstances.

A presumption of non-incarceration applies to first-time offenders of crimes of the third and fourth degree, and disorderly persons cases. Repeat offenders, however, could be incarcerated. The OLS notes that to the extent that the bill will result in additional incarcerations, the Department of Corrections has indicated that the average estimated per capita cost to house an inmate in a State prison facility in FY 2016 totaled \$45,000. Department data also indicate that the marginal cost for food, wages and clothing for an additional prison inmate in its facilities totals \$7.15 per day, or \$2,610 annually.

The OLS, however, cannot project the number of future prosecutions, trials, and incarcerations related to the crimes established by the bill.

Revenue Gains: Additional indeterminate annual State and municipal revenue will accrue from fine and penalty payments from convicted violators of new statutory provisions.

In establishing the new third and fourth degree crimes and disorderly persons offenses, the bill creates the potential for recurring State and municipal revenue gains:

- Crimes of the third degree are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.
- Fourth degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.
- Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

The OLS cannot determine the number of convictions of the bill's newly created crimes, and by extension the total of any resultant fine, fee, and assessment collections.

The OLS additionally notes that due to financial constraints many penalties go unpaid by persons who are convicted of crimes.

Additional Potential Local Government Impact: The bill preempts the adoption of any law, ordinance, resolution, or regulation by a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone that may be inconsistent with the bill's provisions. The OLS, however, has no information on the number of local governments that will be affected by, or the amount of revenue they might lose because of, the bill's preemption.

Section: Law and Public Safety

*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 5205

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

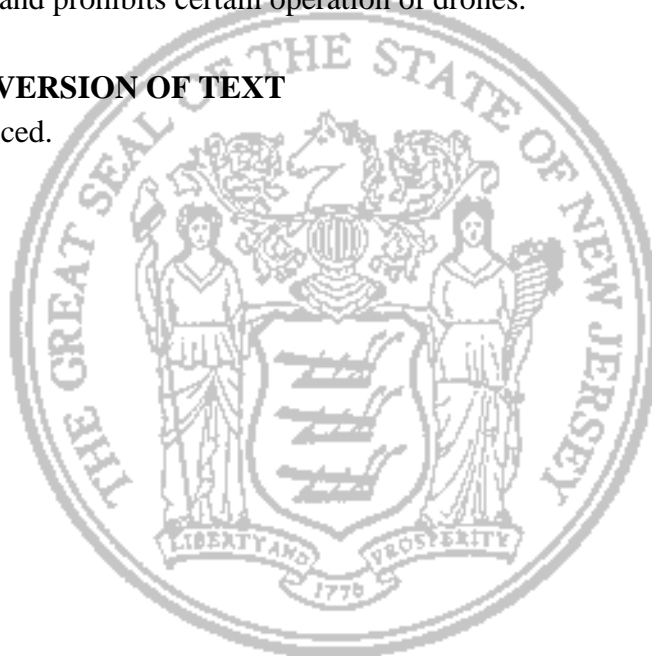
Assemblywoman Pinkin

SYNOPSIS

Regulates and prohibits certain operation of drones.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/9/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning the operation of unmanned aircraft systems and
2 amending and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) a. As used in this act:

8 “Operate” means to fly, control, direct, or program the flight of
9 an unmanned aircraft system.

10 “Unmanned aircraft” means an aircraft that is operated without
11 the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the
12 aircraft.

13 “Unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned aircraft and
14 associated elements, including communication links and the
15 components that control the unmanned aircraft, that are required for
16 the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently.

17 b. Except as otherwise prohibited by P.L. , c. (C.)
18 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a person who is
19 authorized by federal law to operate an unmanned aircraft system
20 may operate an unmanned aircraft system in this State for any
21 purpose, provided that the person operates the unmanned aircraft
22 system in a manner consistent with applicable federal law and
23 regulations. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect
24 federal preemption of State law regarding aviation.

25 For purposes of this subsection, “person” means an individual,
26 partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other
27 legal or commercial entity.

28 c. An owner or operator of a critical infrastructure, including a
29 political subdivision, may apply to the Administrator of the Federal
30 Aviation Administration, pursuant to section 2209 of the “FAA
31 Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016,” Pub.L.114-190, in
32 order to prohibit or restrict the operation of unmanned aircraft
33 systems in close proximity to the critical infrastructure.

34 Prior to applying to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
35 Administration to prohibit or restrict the operation of unmanned
36 aircraft systems in close proximity to a critical infrastructure, a
37 political subdivision shall hold a minimum of one public hearing,
38 with adequate notice to the public, concerning the proposed
39 application.

40

41 2. (New section) a. A person commits a disorderly persons
42 offense if he knowingly or intentionally operates as defined in
43 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
44 as this bill) an unmanned aircraft system as defined in section 1 of
45 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) in

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 a manner that endangers the life or property of another. In making
2 this determination, the court shall consider the standards for safe
3 operation of small unmanned aircraft systems prescribed by federal
4 law or regulation.

5 b. (1) A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
6 knowingly or intentionally creates or maintains a condition which
7 endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by
8 operating an unmanned aircraft system on the premises of or in
9 close proximity to that facility without license or privilege to do so.

10 (2) A person commits a crime of the third degree if he
11 knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft system to conduct
12 surveillance of, or gather information about, a correctional facility
13 without license or privilege to do so.

14 For purposes of this subsection, “correctional facility” means a
15 jail, prison, lockup, penitentiary, reformatory, training school, or
16 other similar facility within the State of New Jersey.

17 c. A person commits a crime of the fourth degree if he
18 knowingly or intentionally operates an unmanned aircraft system in
19 a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively
20 engaged in response or actively engaged in air, water, vehicular,
21 ground, or specialized transport.

22 For purposes of this subsection “first responder” means a law
23 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
24 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
25 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
26 of his employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle
27 accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing
28 medical care or other assistance.

29 d. A person commits a disorderly persons offense if he
30 knowingly operates an unmanned aircraft system or uses an
31 unmanned aircraft system to take or assist in the taking of wildlife.

32 e. A person commits a disorderly persons offense if he operates
33 an unmanned aircraft system while under the influence of
34 intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing
35 drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by
36 weight of alcohol in the defendant’s blood.

37 f. It shall be a violation of any restraining order issued by the
38 court pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1999, c.47 (C.2C:12-10.2),
39 section 3 or 4 of P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-15 or C.2C:14-16),
40 section 12 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-28), section 4 of P.L.1999,
41 c.334 (C.2C:35-5.7), or any other court order restraining contact
42 with a person or location, for a person subject to that order to
43 knowingly operate an unmanned aircraft system to fly within a
44 distance of a person or location that would violate that restraining
45 order.

46 g. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other
47 law to the contrary, a conviction under this section shall not merge
48 with a conviction of harassment pursuant to N.J.S.2C:33-4, stalking

1 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10), invasion of
2 privacy pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2003, c.206 (C.2C:14-9),
3 obstructing administration of law or other governmental function
4 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:29-1, introducing contraband pursuant to
5 N.J.S.2C:29-6, contempt of a domestic violence order pursuant to
6 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:29-9 which constitutes a crime or
7 disorderly persons offense, or any other criminal offense, even if
8 any other conviction involves the use of an unmanned aircraft
9 system, nor shall the other conviction merge with a conviction
10 under this section.

11

12 3. Section 2 of P.L.1994, c.130 (C.2C:43-6.4) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 2. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a
15 judge imposing sentence on a person who has been convicted of
16 aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal
17 sexual contact, kidnapping pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection
18 c. of N.J.S.2C:13-1, endangering the welfare of a child by engaging
19 in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the
20 child pursuant to subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:24-4, endangering the
21 welfare of a child pursuant to paragraph (3) or sub-subparagraph (i)
22 or (ii) of subparagraph (b) of paragraph (5) of subsection b. of
23 N.J.S.2C:24-4, luring, violating a condition of a special sentence of
24 community supervision for life pursuant to subsection d. of this
25 section, or an attempt to commit any of these offenses shall include,
26 in addition to any sentence authorized by this Code, a special
27 sentence of parole supervision for life. Notwithstanding any
28 provision of law to the contrary, a court imposing sentence on a
29 person who has been convicted of endangering the welfare of a
30 child pursuant to paragraph (4) or sub-subparagraph (iii) of
31 subparagraph (b) of paragraph (5) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:24-
32 4, leader of a child pornography network pursuant to section 8 of
33 P.L.2017, c.141 (C.2C:24-4.1), or an attempt to commit either of
34 these offenses shall include, upon motion of the prosecutor, a
35 special sentence of parole supervision for life in addition to any
36 sentence authorized by Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, unless
37 the court finds on the record that the special sentence is not needed
38 to protect the community or deter the defendant from future
39 criminal activity.

40 b. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required
41 by this section shall commence immediately upon the defendant's
42 release from incarceration. If the defendant is serving a sentence of
43 incarceration for another offense at the time he completes the
44 custodial portion of the sentence imposed on the present offense,
45 the special sentence of parole supervision for life shall not
46 commence until the defendant is actually released from
47 incarceration for the other offense. Persons serving a special
48 sentence of parole supervision for life shall remain in the legal

1 custody of the Commissioner of Corrections, shall be supervised by
2 the Division of Parole of the State Parole Board, shall be subject to
3 the provisions and conditions set forth in subsection c. of section 3
4 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b) and sections 15 through 19 and
5 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.59 through 30:4-123.63 and
6 30:4-123.65), and shall be subject to conditions appropriate to
7 protect the public and foster rehabilitation. Such conditions may
8 include the requirement that the person comply with the conditions
9 set forth in subsection f. of this section concerning use of a
10 computer or other device with access to the Internet or the
11 conditions set forth in subsection g. of this section concerning the
12 operation as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
13 before the Legislature as this bill) of an unmanned aircraft system
14 as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
15 Legislature as this bill). If the defendant violates a condition of a
16 special sentence of parole supervision for life, the defendant shall
17 be subject to the provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of
18 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and 30:4-
19 123.65), and for the purpose of calculating the limitation on time
20 served pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.65)
21 the custodial term imposed upon the defendant related to the special
22 sentence of parole supervision for life shall be deemed to be a term
23 of life imprisonment. When the court suspends the imposition of
24 sentence on a defendant who has been convicted of any offense
25 enumerated in subsection a. of this section, the court may not
26 suspend imposition of the special sentence of parole supervision for
27 life, which shall commence immediately, with the Division of
28 Parole of the State Parole Board maintaining supervision over that
29 defendant, including the defendant's compliance with any
30 conditions imposed by the court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:45-1, in
31 accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Nothing
32 contained in this subsection shall prevent the court from at any time
33 proceeding under the provisions of N.J.S.2C:45-1 through
34 N.J.S.2C:45-4 against any such defendant for a violation of any
35 conditions imposed by the court when it suspended imposition of
36 sentence, or prevent the Division of Parole from proceeding under
37 the provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441
38 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and C.30:4-123.65) against any
39 such defendant for a violation of any conditions of the special
40 sentence of parole supervision for life, including the conditions
41 imposed by the court pursuant to N.J.S.2C:45-1. In any such
42 proceeding by the Division of Parole, the provisions of subsection
43 c. of section 3 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.30:4-123.51b) authorizing
44 revocation and return to prison shall be applicable to such a
45 defendant, notwithstanding that the defendant may not have been
46 sentenced to or served any portion of a custodial term for
47 conviction of an offense enumerated in subsection a. of this section.

1 c. A person sentenced to a term of parole supervision for life
2 may petition the Superior Court for release from that parole
3 supervision. The judge may grant a petition for release from a
4 special sentence of parole supervision for life only upon proof by
5 clear and convincing evidence that the person has not committed a
6 crime for 15 years since the last conviction or release from
7 incarceration, whichever is later, and that the person is not likely to
8 pose a threat to the safety of others if released from parole
9 supervision. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 22 of
10 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.66), a person sentenced to a term of
11 parole supervision for life may be released from that parole
12 supervision term only by court order as provided in this subsection.

13 d. A person who violates a condition of a special sentence of
14 community supervision for life or parole supervision for life
15 imposed pursuant to this section without good cause is guilty of a
16 crime of the third degree. Notwithstanding any other law to the
17 contrary, a person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall be
18 sentenced to a term of imprisonment, unless the court is clearly
19 convinced that the interests of justice so far outweigh the need to
20 deter this conduct and the interest in public safety that a sentence to
21 imprisonment would be a manifest injustice. Nothing in this
22 subsection shall preclude subjecting a person who violates any
23 condition of a special sentence of parole supervision for life to the
24 provisions of sections 16 through 19 and 21 of P.L.1979, c.441
25 (C.30:4-123.60 through 30:4-123.63 and C.30:4-123.65) pursuant to
26 the provisions of subsection c. of section 3 of P.L.1997, c.117
27 (C.30:4-123.51b).

28 e. A person who, while serving a special sentence of parole
29 supervision for life imposed pursuant to this section, commits a
30 violation of N.J.S.2C:11-3, N.J.S.2C:11-4, N.J.S.2C:11-5,
31 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:12-1, N.J.S.2C:13-1, section 1 of
32 P.L.1993, c.291 (C.2C:13-6), N.J.S.2C:14-2, N.J.S.2C:14-3,
33 N.J.S.2C:24-4, section 8 of P.L.2017, c.141 (C.2C:24-4.1),
34 N.J.S.2C:18-2 when the offense is a crime of the second degree, or
35 subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-4 shall be sentenced to an extended
36 term of imprisonment as set forth in N.J.S.2C:43-7, which term
37 shall, notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:43-7 or any other
38 law, be served in its entirety prior to the person's resumption of the
39 term of parole supervision for life.

40 f. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required
41 by this section may include any of the following Internet access
42 conditions:

43 (1) Prohibit the person from accessing or using a computer or
44 any other device with Internet capability without the prior written
45 approval of the court except the person may use a computer or any
46 other device with Internet capability in connection with that
47 person's employment or search for employment with the prior
48 approval of the person's parole officer;

1 (2) Require the person to submit to periodic unannounced
2 examinations of the person's computer or any other device with
3 Internet capability by a parole officer, law enforcement officer or
4 assigned computer or information technology specialist, including
5 the retrieval and copying of all data from the computer or device
6 and any internal or external peripherals and removal of such
7 information, equipment or device to conduct a more thorough
8 inspection;

9 (3) Require the person to submit to the installation on the
10 person's computer or device with Internet capability, at the person's
11 expense, one or more hardware or software systems to monitor the
12 Internet use;

13 (4) Require the person to submit to any other appropriate
14 restrictions concerning the person's use or access of a computer or
15 any other device with Internet capability; and

16 (5) Require the person to disclose all passwords used by the
17 person to access any data, information, image, program, signal or
18 file on the person's computer or any other device with Internet
19 capability.

20 g. The special sentence of parole supervision for life required
21 by this section may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or
22 restricting the person's operation of an unmanned aircraft system in
23 order to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of criminal or
24 delinquent behavior.

25 (cf: P.L.2017, c.141, s.5)

26

27 4. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.11 (C.23:7A-2) is amended to read
28 as follows:

29 2. No person may, for the purpose of hindering or preventing
30 the lawful taking of wildlife:

31 a. block, obstruct, or impede, or attempt to block, obstruct, or
32 impede, a person lawfully taking wildlife;

33 b. erect a barrier with the intent to deny ingress to or egress
34 from areas where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

35 c. make, or attempt to make, unauthorized physical contact
36 with a person lawfully taking wildlife;

37 d. engage in, or attempt to engage in, theft, vandalism, or
38 destruction of personal or real property;

39 e. disturb or alter, or attempt to disturb or alter, the condition
40 or authorized placement of personal or real property intended for
41 use in the lawful taking of wildlife;

42 f. enter or remain upon public lands or waters, or upon private
43 lands or waters without permission of the owner thereof or an agent
44 of that landowner, where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

45 g. make or attempt to make loud noises or gestures, set out or
46 attempt to set out animal baits, scents, or lures or human scent, use
47 any other natural or artificial visual, aural, olfactory, or physical
48 stimuli, or engage in or attempt to engage in any other similar

1 action or activity, in order to disturb, alarm, drive, attract, or affect
2 the behavior of wildlife or disturb, alarm, disrupt, or annoy a person
3 lawfully taking wildlife; **or**

4 h. interject himself into the line of fire of a person lawfully
5 taking wildlife; or

6 i. operate as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) an unmanned aircraft
8 system as defined in section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill).

10 Subsections a., b., e., f., **and** g., and i. of this section shall not
11 apply to a law enforcement officer or conservation officer enforcing
12 the laws of this State or any local ordinance, or a private landowner
13 or agent thereof on land or waters owned by that private landowner.
14 (cf: P.L.1993, c.11, s.2)

15

16 5. The provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill) shall preempt any law, ordinance,
18 resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body of a county
19 or municipality concerning the private use of an unmanned aircraft
20 system that is inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

21

22 6. Nothing in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
23 Legislature as this bill) shall prohibit the authorized use, in
24 compliance with applicable federal rules and regulations, of an
25 unmanned aircraft system by a public employee or a public entity,
26 or by a first responder in the performance of official duties.

27 For purposes of this section “first responder” means a law
28 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
29 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
30 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
31 of his employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle
32 accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing
33 medical care or other assistance.

34

35 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
36 next following the date of enactment.

37

38

39

STATEMENT

40

41 This bill regulates and prohibits the operation of unmanned
42 aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, under certain
43 circumstances.

44 Under the bill, it is a disorderly persons offense to operate a
45 drone: 1) knowingly or intentionally in a manner that endangers the
46 life or property of another; 2) to take or assist in the taking of
47 wildlife; and 3) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a
48 narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing drug or with a blood

1 alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol.
2 Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of
3 imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

4 The bill provides that it is a fourth degree crime for a person to
5 knowingly or intentionally: 1) create or maintain a condition that
6 endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by
7 operating a drone on the premises of or in close proximity to the
8 facility; and 2) operate a drone in a manner that interferes with a
9 first responder who is actively engaged in response or air, water,
10 vehicular, ground, or specialized transport. Fourth degree crimes
11 are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine
12 of up to \$10,000, or both.

13 Further, it is a third degree crime for a person to knowingly
14 operate a drone to conduct surveillance of or gather information
15 about a correctional facility. Third degree crimes are punishable by
16 a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to
17 \$15,000, or both.

18 In addition, the bill prohibits a person from operating a drone for
19 the purpose of hindering or preventing the lawful taking of wildlife.

20 The bill also provides that it is a violation of a restraining order
21 or any other court order restraining contact with a person or
22 location for a person who is subject to that order to operate a drone
23 within a distance of a person or location that would violate the
24 order.

25 The bill provides that a conviction under the bill is not to merge
26 with a conviction of harassment, stalking, invasion of privacy,
27 obstructing the administration of law or other governmental
28 function, introducing contraband into a correctional facility, certain
29 offenses of contempt of a domestic violence order, or any other
30 criminal offense even if the other conviction involves the use of a
31 drone.

32 In addition, under the bill, a special sentence of parole
33 supervision for life may include reasonable conditions prohibiting
34 or restricting a person's operation of a drone in order to reduce the
35 likelihood or recurrence of criminal or delinquent behavior.

36 The bill provides that, except as prohibited by the provisions of
37 the bill, a person who is authorized by federal law to operate a
38 drone may do so, provided that operation is in a manner consistent
39 with federal law and regulations.

40 Further, the bill provides that an owner or operator of a critical
41 infrastructure, including a political subdivision, may apply to the
42 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA),
43 pursuant to the "FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016,"
44 Pub.L.114-190, in order to prohibit or restrict the operation of
45 drones in close proximity to the critical infrastructure. In the case
46 of a political subdivision, the political subdivision is required to
47 hold at least one public hearing concerning the proposed FAA
48 application.

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10

1 Finally, the provisions of this bill are to preempt any law,
2 ordinance, resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body
3 of a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone
4 that is inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5205

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 4, 2017

The Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5205.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5205 regulates and prohibits the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, under certain circumstances.

Under the bill, it is a disorderly persons offense to operate a drone: 1) knowingly or intentionally in a manner that endangers the life or property of another; 2) to take or assist in the taking of wildlife; and 3) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol. Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

The bill establishes a fourth degree crime to knowingly or intentionally: 1) create or maintain a condition that endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by operating a drone on the premises of or in close proximity to the facility; and 2) operate a drone in a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively engaged in response or air, water, vehicular, ground, or specialized transport. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

Furthermore, it would be a third degree crime for a person to knowingly operate a drone to conduct surveillance of or gather information about a correctional facility. Third degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

In addition, the bill prohibits a person from operating a drone for the purpose of hindering or preventing the lawful taking of wildlife.

The bill also provides that it is a violation of a restraining order or any other court order restraining contact with a person or location for a person who is subject to that order to operate a drone within a distance of a person or location that would violate the order.

The bill provides that a conviction under the bill is not to merge with a conviction of harassment, stalking, invasion of privacy, obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function, introducing contraband into a correctional facility, certain offenses of

contempt of a domestic violence order, or any other criminal offense even if the other conviction involves the use of a drone.

In addition, under the bill, a special sentence of parole supervision for life may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or restricting a person's operation of a drone in order to reduce the likelihood or recurrence of criminal or delinquent behavior.

The bill provides that, except as prohibited by the provisions of the bill, a person who is authorized by federal law to operate a drone may do so, provided that operation is in a manner consistent with federal law and regulations.

Further, the bill provides that an owner or operator of a critical infrastructure, including a political subdivision, may apply to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), pursuant to the "FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016," Pub.L.114-190, in order to prohibit or restrict the operation of drones in close proximity to the critical infrastructure. In the case of a political subdivision, the political subdivision is required to hold at least one public hearing concerning the proposed FAA application.

Finally, the provisions of this bill are to preempt any law, ordinance, resolution, or regulation adopted by the governing body of a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone that is inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 5205
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 9, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Regulates and prohibits certain operation of drones.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State and Local Government Expenditure and Revenue Increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety. Department of Corrections. Administrative Office of the Courts. County and Municipal Governments.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Annual Increase in State Costs and Revenue	Indeterminate – See comments below.		
Annual Increase in Local Costs and Revenue	Indeterminate – See comments below.		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) anticipates that the State, county prosecutor’s offices, local law enforcement agencies, and municipal courts will incur indeterminate additional annual operating expenses from enforcing, prosecuting, and trying the offenses established by the bill, and incarcerating any offenders.
- The State and municipal governments may receive indeterminate additional annual revenue from fines and penalties imposed on and collected from individuals convicted of the offenses established by this bill.
- The OLS lacks sufficient information to quantify the bill’s fiscal impacts. It is unclear how many persons would be prosecuted, tried, and sentenced for the unlawful operation of a drone in fiscal years following enactment.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill regulates and prohibits the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones, under certain circumstances.

It will be a disorderly persons offense to operate a drone: 1) knowingly or intentionally in a manner that endangers the life or property of another; 2) to take or assist in the taking of wildlife; and 3) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic, or habit-producing drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol. Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

It will be a fourth degree crime for a person to knowingly or intentionally: 1) create or maintain a condition that endangers the safety or security of a correctional facility by operating a drone on the premises of or in close proximity to the facility; and 2) operate a drone in a manner that interferes with a first responder who is actively engaged in response or air, water, vehicular, ground, or specialized transport. Fourth degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

It will be a third degree crime for a person to knowingly operate a drone to conduct surveillance of or gather information about a correctional facility. Third degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

Moreover, it will be a violation of a restraining order or any other court order restraining contact with a person or location for a person who is subject to that order to operate a drone within a distance of a person or location that would violate the order.

In addition, a special sentence of parole supervision for life may include reasonable conditions prohibiting or restricting a person's operation of a drone in order to reduce the likelihood or recurrence of criminal or delinquent behavior.

Finally, the bill preempts any law, ordinance, resolution, or regulation adopted by a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone that is inconsistent with the bill's provisions.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS anticipates that the State, county prosecutor's offices, local law enforcement agencies, and municipal courts will incur indeterminate additional annual operating expenses from enforcing, prosecuting, and trying the offenses established by the bill, and incarcerating any offenders. The State and municipal governments also may receive indeterminate additional annual revenue from fines and penalties imposed on and collected from individuals convicted of the offenses established by this bill.

However, the OLS lacks sufficient information to quantify the bill's fiscal impacts. It is unclear how many persons would be prosecuted, tried, and sentenced for the unlawful operation of a drone in fiscal years following enactment.

Expenditure Increases: The OLS estimates that the bill will produce indeterminate annual expenditure increases to the State, counties, and municipalities.

The bill's establishment of new crimes of the third degree, fourth degree, and disorderly persons offenses will increase the workload of the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, county prosecutor's offices, the Administrative Office of

the Courts, and municipal courts, as additional defendants will be prosecuted and tried. Crimes of the third and fourth degree are adjudicated by the Superior Court. Disorderly person offenses are adjudicated by municipal courts, in most circumstances.

A presumption of non-incarceration applies to first-time offenders of crimes of the third and fourth degree, and disorderly persons cases. Repeat offenders, however, could be incarcerated. The OLS notes that to the extent that the bill will result in additional incarcerations, the Department of Corrections has indicated that the average estimated per capita cost to house an inmate in a State prison facility in FY 2016 totaled \$45,000. Department data also indicate that the marginal cost for food, wages and clothing for an additional prison inmate in its facilities totals \$7.15 per day, or \$2,610 annually.

The OLS, however, cannot project the number of future prosecutions, trials, and incarcerations related to the crimes established by the bill.

Revenue Gains: Additional indeterminate annual State and municipal revenue will accrue from fine and penalty payments from convicted violators of new statutory provisions.

In establishing the new third and fourth degree crimes and disorderly persons offenses, the bill creates the potential for recurring State and municipal revenue gains:

- Crimes of the third degree are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.
- Fourth degree crimes are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.
- Disorderly persons offenses are punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.

The OLS cannot determine the number of convictions of the bill's newly created disorderly persons offenses and crimes, and by extension the total of any resultant fine, fee, and assessment collections.

The OLS additionally notes that due to financial constraints many penalties go unpaid by persons who are convicted of disorderly persons offenses and crimes.

Additional Potential Local Government Impact: The bill preempts the adoption of any law, ordinance, resolution, or regulation by a county or municipality concerning the private use of a drone that may be inconsistent with the bill's provisions. The OLS, however, has no information on the number of local governments that will be affected by, or the amount of revenue they might lose because of, the bill's preemption.

Section: Law and Public Safety

*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).