

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 2174

By: Hilbert, Phillips and
Talley of the House

3 and

4 Rosino of the Senate
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7 An Act relating to aircraft and airports; creating
8 the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Development Act of
9 2021; stating legislative intent; establishing the
10 Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission as the clearinghouse
11 for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS); designating the
12 Commission as the agency to promote, enhance, develop
13 and ensure safety of UAS; stating purpose of the
14 clearinghouse; requiring the Commission cooperate
15 with other entities for the development and
16 acceptance of UAS; allowing the Commission to use
17 established processes or use of contracting to
18 achieve goals; stating primary goal of clearinghouse;
19 stating duties of clearinghouse; amending 3 O.S.
20 2011, Section 82, which relates to definitions;
21 defining terms; providing for noncodification;
22 providing for codification; and providing an
23 effective date.

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
20 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

21 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Unmanned
22 Aircraft Systems Development Act of 2021".

23 B. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature to bring
24 awareness to the fact that unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones

1 offer extraordinary and vast potential for transforming the way we
2 live and work. Fully realizing and implementing the benefits of UAS
3 will require public acceptance and a comprehensive statewide
4 strategy. This act intends to ensure that the state's UAS resources
5 can be brought together to organize, collaborate and cooperate with
6 each other for the purposes of ensuring the successful integration
7 of UAS and to ensure that UAS are used in a safe, responsible and
8 lawful manner so that the public can, with confidence, embrace this
9 new and incredible technology.

10 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 401 of Title 3, unless there is
12 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is hereby established as
14 the clearinghouse for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in the State
15 of Oklahoma and shall be designated as the agency of this state for
16 the promotion, enhancement and development of UAS and to ensure the
17 safe integration and use of this new technology within the state.
18 The purpose of this clearinghouse is to create a partnership between
19 those entities that currently operate UAS, those that desire to use
20 this technology in the future and other entities that can support
21 the research and development of UAS to ensure that the State of
22 Oklahoma can more effectively respond to the needs of this critical
23 sector of the aviation and aerospace industry. In the operation of
24 this clearinghouse, the Commission shall cooperate, assist and

1 coordinate with the federal government, agencies of this state,
2 tribal entities, municipalities and other persons in the development
3 of unmanned aircraft systems throughout the state to ensure the
4 acceptance of this technology and the successful integration of UAS
5 into the National Airspace System. Contingent upon the availability
6 of funds, the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission may use established
7 program processes or may contract with other qualified entities to
8 carry out the duties and responsibilities of this act.

9 B. The primary goal of the UAS clearinghouse within the
10 Commission is to establish a central point within state government
11 to develop the strategy for how the State of Oklahoma can become a
12 leader in the UAS industry. It will focus the collective resources,
13 knowledge, information and assets within state government to ensure
14 coordinated efforts amongst all parties. The clearinghouse will:

15 1. Conduct research on what other states and localities are
16 doing insofar as their UAS rules and regulations so that it can
17 provide recommendations to ensure Oklahoma is in the best position
18 within the industry;

19 2. Organize and coordinate the application for any UAS test
20 site, integration opportunity, pilot program or grant funding on
21 behalf of the State of Oklahoma;

22 3. Maintain a registry of UAS being operated by state agencies,
23 except those UAS that are part of a university-affiliated research
24 program; and

1 4. Maintain a registry of educational institutions that offer
2 training programs for users of UAS.

3 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 3 O.S. 2011, Section 82, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 82. As used in the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Act,
6 unless the context otherwise requires:

7 ~~(a) 1.~~ "Aeronautics" means the science, art, and practice of
8 flight including, but not limited to, transportation by aircraft and
9 matters relating to air commerce; the operation, construction,
10 repair, or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft power plants and
11 accessories, including the repair, packing, and maintenance of
12 parachutes; the design, establishment, construction, extension,
13 operation, improvement, repair, or maintenance of airports,
14 restricted landing areas, or other air navigation facilities; and
15 instruction in flying or ground subjects pertaining thereto.

16 ~~(b) "Aircraft" means any contrivance now known, or hereafter~~
17 ~~invented, used, or designed for navigation of or flight in the air~~
18 ~~or airspace.~~

19 ~~(c) "Airport" means an area of land or water that is used, or~~
20 ~~intended to be used, for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, and~~
21 ~~buildings and facilities, if any.~~

22 ~~(d) "Airspace" means that portion of the atmosphere overlying a~~
23 ~~designated geographical area considered as subject to territorial~~
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1 ~~jurisdiction or international law in respect to its use by aircraft,~~
2 ~~guided missiles, and rockets.~~

3 ~~(e) "Commission" means the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.~~

4 ~~(f) "Director" means the Director of Aeronautics of Oklahoma.~~

5 ~~(g) "State" or "this state" means the State of Oklahoma.~~

6 ~~(h) "Air navigation facility" means any facility used in,~~
7 ~~available for use in, or designed for use in, aid of air navigation,~~
8 ~~including landing areas, any structures, mechanisms, lights,~~
9 ~~beacons, markers, communicating systems, or other instrumentalities~~
10 ~~or devices used or useful as an aid, or constituting an advantage or~~
11 ~~convenience, to the safe taking off, navigation, and landing of~~
12 ~~aircraft, or the safe and efficient operation or maintenance of an~~
13 ~~airport, and any combination of any or all of such facilities.~~

14 ~~(i) "Operation of aircraft" or "operate aircraft" means the~~
15 ~~use, navigation, or piloting of aircraft in the airspace over this~~
16 ~~state or upon any airport within this state.~~

17 ~~(j) "Airman" means any individual who engages, as the person in~~
18 ~~command, or as pilot, mechanic, or member of the crew, in the~~
19 ~~navigation of aircraft while under way, and any individual who is~~
20 ~~directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling, or~~
21 ~~repair of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, and appliances.~~

22 ~~(k) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership,~~
23 ~~corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body~~

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1 ~~politic; and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other~~
2 ~~similar representative thereof.~~

3 ~~(l) "Municipality" means any incorporated city, village, or~~
4 ~~town of this state and any county or political subdivision or~~
5 ~~district in this state, or any public trust thereof, which is, or~~
6 ~~may be, authorized by law to acquire, establish, construct,~~
7 ~~maintain, improve, and operate airports, airstrips, and aeronautical~~
8 ~~navigation facilities.~~

9 ~~(m) "Aeronautical hazard" means any structure, object of~~
10 ~~natural growth, or use of land, which obstructs the airspace~~
11 ~~required for the flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an~~
12 ~~airport that is otherwise hazardous to the operation and navigation~~
13 ~~of aircraft.~~

14 ~~(n) "Resources" means services, facilities, funds, equipment,~~
15 ~~property, personnel, and such other activities as are customarily~~
16 ~~included within the term.~~

17 ~~(o) "Helipad" means a small, designated area, usually with a~~
18 ~~prepared surface, on a heliport, airport, landing or takeoff area,~~
19 ~~apron or ramp, or movement area used for takeoff, landing or parking~~
20 ~~of helicopters.~~

21 ~~(p) "Heliport" means an area of land, water or structure used~~
22 ~~or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of helicopters~~
23 ~~and includes its buildings and facilities, if any.~~

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1 ~~(q) "Commercial service airport" means an airport meeting the~~
2 ~~current Federal Aviation Administration definition for commercial~~
3 ~~service airport.~~

4 ~~(r) "Primary commercial service airport" means an airport~~
5 ~~meeting the current Federal Aviation Administration definition for~~
6 ~~primary commercial service airport.~~

7 ~~(s) "Reliever airport" means an airport designated by the~~
8 ~~Federal Aviation Administration as a reliever airport and which~~
9 ~~provides substantial capacity or instrument training relief to a~~
10 ~~primary commercial service airport.~~

11 ~~(t) "General aviation airport" means an airport not meeting the~~
12 ~~criteria for definition as a commercial service or reliever airport;~~

13 2. "Aeronautical hazard" means any structure, object of natural
14 growth, or use of land which obstructs the airspace required for the
15 flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an airport that is
16 otherwise hazardous to the operation and navigation of aircraft;

17 3. "Air navigation facility" means any facility used in,
18 available for use in, or designed for use in, aid of air navigation,
19 including landing areas, any structures, mechanisms, lights,
20 beacons, markers, communicating systems, or other instrumentalities
21 or devices used or useful as an aid, or constituting an advantage or
22 convenience, to the safe taking off, navigation, and landing of
23 aircraft, or the safe and efficient operation or maintenance of an
24 airport, and any combination of any or all of such facilities;

1 4. "Aircraft" means any contraption now known, or hereafter
2 invented, used, or designed for navigation of or flight in the air
3 or airspace;

4 5. "Airman" means any individual who engages, as the person in
5 command, or as a pilot, mechanic, or member of the crew, in the
6 navigation of aircraft while under way, and any individual who is
7 directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling, or
8 repair of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers, and appliances;

9 6. "Airport" means an area of land or water that is used, or
10 intended to be used, for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, and
11 buildings and facilities, if any;

12 7. "Airspace" means that portion of the atmosphere overlying a
13 designated geographical area considered as subject to territorial
14 jurisdiction or international law in respect to its use by aircraft,
15 guided missiles, and rockets;

16 8. "Commercial service airport" means an airport meeting the
17 current Federal Aviation Administration definition for commercial
18 service airport;

19 9. "Commission" means the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission;

20 10. "Director" means the Director of Aeronautics of Oklahoma;

21 11. "General aviation airport" means an airport not meeting the
22 criteria for definition as a commercial service or reliever airport;

23 12. "Helipad" means a small, designated area, usually with a
24 prepared surface, on a heliport, airport, landing or takeoff area,

1 apron or ramp, or movement area used for takeoff, landing or parking
2 of helicopters;

3 13. "Helicopter" means an area of land, water or structure used
4 or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of helicopters
5 and includes its buildings and facilities, if any;

6 14. "Manned aircraft" means an aircraft, as defined in this
7 section, that is operated with a person in or on the aircraft;

8 15. "Model aircraft" means an aircraft, as defined in this
9 section, that is mechanically driven or launched into flight and
10 that meets all of the following requirements:

11 a. is flown solely for hobby or recreational purposes,
12 and

13 b. is not used for payment, consideration, gratuity or
14 benefit, directly or indirectly charged, demanded,
15 received or collected by any person for the use of the
16 aircraft or any photographic or video image produced
17 by the aircraft;

18 16. "Municipality" means any incorporated city, village, or
19 town of this state and any county or political subdivision or
20 district in this state, or any public trust thereof, which is, or
21 may be, authorized by law to acquire, establish, construct,
22 maintain, improve, and operate airports, airstrips, and aeronautical
23 navigation facilities;

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1 17. "Operation of aircraft" or "operate aircraft" means the
2 use, navigation, or piloting of aircraft in the airspace over this
3 state or upon any airport within this state;

4 18. "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership,
5 corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or body
6 politic and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or other
7 similar representative thereof;

8 19. "Primary commercial service airport" means an airport
9 meeting the current Federal Aviation Administration definition for
10 primary commercial service airport;

11 20. "Reliever airport" means an airport designated by the
12 Federal Aviation Administration as a reliever airport and which
13 provides substantial capacity or instrument training relief to a
14 primary commercial service airport;

15 21. "Resources" means services, facilities, funds, equipment,
16 property, personnel, and such other activities as are customarily
17 included within the term;

18 22. "State" or "this state" means the State of Oklahoma;

19 23. "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft, as defined in this
20 section, that is operated without the possibility of human
21 intervention from within or on the aircraft; and

22 24. "Unmanned aircraft system" means an unmanned aircraft and
23 associated elements including communication links and components
24 that control the unmanned aircraft that are required for the pilot

1 in command to operate safely and efficiently in the National
2 Airspace System.

3 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

4 Passed the House of Representatives the 8th day of March, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the ___ day of _____, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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