

HCS HB 2587 -- UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

SPONSOR: Jones (12)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime and Public Safety by a vote of 18 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2587.

This bill authorizes a peace officer certified in accordance with Federal requirements to conduct unmanned aircraft and unmanned aerial system mitigation to take necessary mitigation measures, specified in the bill, in a manner consistent with the Missouri Constitution against an imminent threat posed by an unmanned aircraft system to public safety or when the unmanned aircraft system is involved in criminal activity.

The bill amends the offense of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft to include when one is flown over a critical infrastructure facility.

This bill includes an emergency clause.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this updates Missouri law to address the very real threat of drones, which are a public safety issue and bring new security challenges. This gives law enforcement officers clear legal authority to act within the law to address misuse of drones. This is a modernization bill that aligns Missouri with similar federal law, which addresses that drones in the wrong hands can cause a lot of damage and be dangerous. It allows law enforcement to access federally-authorized training on this. Drones can be taken in as evidence just like evidence of any other crime. Law enforcement still must have probable cause that a crime has been committed. The emergency clause is critical because it's moot if this isn't implemented immediately since Kansas City is hosting the World Cup this summer. This technology is evolving very quickly and it is imperative that we protect people and facilities while preserving people's abilities to fly their personal drones.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Jones; Arnie Dienoff; Alexander Vivas, Missouri State Highway Patrol; City of Kansas City; L3Harris Technologies; and Kansas City MO Police Department.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that they are not opposed to increasing and ensuring public safety. The concern is some of the language, like the safe skies act that went into effect on the federal level. Certain things have not been implemented at the Federal level so they want to avoid ambiguities so the suggestion is to wait on the Federal government.

Testifying in person against the bill was MO Chamber of Commerce.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.