

(1) SHORT TITLE. – This act may be cited as “The Act to Prohibit the Purchase of Small Unmanned Aircrafts Manufactured or Assembled by a Covered Foreign Entity.”

(2) DEFINITIONS. – As used in this act, the term:

- I. Covered Foreign Entity
 - I. means an individual, foreign government, or a party:
 - I. On the Consolidated Screening List or Entity List as designated by the United States Secretary of Commerce.
 - II. Domiciled in the People’s Republic of China or the Russian Federation.
 - III. Under the influence or control by the government of the People’s Republic of China or the Russian Federation.
 - IV. That is a subsidiary or affiliate of an individual, government or party referred to above.
- II. Public entity
 - I. Means the [State], or a political subdivision of the state, including all boards, authorities, commissions, agencies, committees, councils, university departments, or other state entities created by the State constitution or law.
- III. Small Unmanned Aircraft System
 - I. Unmanned, powered aircraft that:
 - I. Is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;
 - II. Can be expendable or recoverable; and
 - III. Weighs less than fifty-five pounds (55 lbs.) including the weight of anything attached to or carried by the aircraft.

(3) PURCHASE OF SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT FROM COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.

- I. A public entity shall not purchase or otherwise acquire a small unmanned aircraft system that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.
- II. No state funds may be used in connection with small unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity, including without limitation state funds:
 - a. Awarded through a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement; or
 - b. Otherwise made available.
- III. On or after May 1, 2027, a public entity shall not operate a small unmanned aircraft manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity.
- IV. The [*Secretary of the Relevant Department*] may waive the restrictions upon:
 - a. His or her review of the necessity to purchase a small unmanned aircraft system that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity due to exigent circumstances, Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or criminal investigative purposes; and
 - b. Notification to the General Assembly.

(4) DRONE REPLACEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

- I. Subject to appropriation, a drone replacement grant program will be created within the [*Relevant Department*] beginning no later than 270 days after enactment.
 - a. The program shall provide funds to public safety agencies impacted by the above provisions.

- i. Those departments that turn in drones to the [*Relevant Department*] that are not in compliance with the above provisions will be eligible for appropriated funds to acquire compliant systems and training. The drone must not have reached its end of life and must still be in working condition. Funds shall be provided based upon the drone's current purchase value. Grant funds may only be used to purchase drones that are in compliance with the above sections.
 - ii. Those agencies desiring to purchase new drones must detail specific platforms they wish to purchase alongside a training and use plan.
 - b. The [*Relevant Department*] shall develop an application process and allocate funds on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by the date the [*Relevant Department*] receives the properly completed application. The [*Relevant Department*] may adopt rules to implement this program.
- II. Approved replacement drones must be in compliance with the above sections. This includes, but is not limited to, drones that have received:
- a. Defense Innovation Unit's (DIU) Blue sUAS certification.
 - b. The Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems' (AUVSI) Green UAS certification.

Accompanying Appropriations Language for Budget Bills:

For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, [XXX] in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the [*Relevant Department*] for the drone replacement grant program.