

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2013

Source

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**Legislative
Resolve No.**

17



Recognizing the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a national leader in unmanned aircraft research and development; and relating to a Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has, since 2001, been designing payloads and upgrades for unmanned aircraft systems, testing and evaluating their safety and effectiveness, developing and demonstrating new uses for various potential users, working with the Federal Aviation Administration to make the use of unmanned aircraft systems safe, and developing technology to improve safety and is known across the nation for its leadership in advancing the state of the art and the safe use of unmanned aircraft systems; and

WHEREAS the importance of the program's work to the state was recently recognized by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska when the regents established the Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to continue research and development of unmanned aircraft systems for the benefit of the

state; and

WHEREAS the legislature recognizes the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as the state's leader in unmanned aircraft systems research, meeting the goals of industry, the Federal Aviation Administration, and government operations; and

WHEREAS the legislature has provided significant financial support to the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to further the center's research initiatives, and to increase its capabilities for use as a possible Federal Aviation Administration test site; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska, the University of Alaska, the Alaska Aerospace Corporation, the Alaska Aviation Safety Project, and other public and private institutions have developed cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Department of Defense, and others to further advance the research, development, and use of technology to benefit and support Alaskans and Americans with the safe use of unmanned aircraft systems; and

WHEREAS Alaska state government and the state's business and research community continue to work with the Federal Aviation Administration to promote the establishment of safe unmanned aircraft system ranges onshore and offshore Alaska, which will help establish procedures for the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems in the National Airspace System; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration, by virtue of being located in Alaska, has access to an area of geographic and climatic diversity where the air and surface population density is desirable for conducting research and development of unmanned aircraft systems; and

WHEREAS the state has the highest per capita use of general aviation activity in the nation, and Alaska aviation organizations have helped the Federal Aviation Administration develop the next generation of air traffic control for the nation and the world, while making major gains for the state's aviation safety in the process; and

WHEREAS unmanned aircraft systems may present a risk to privacy, but neither the Federal Aviation Administration nor any other state or federal agency currently has specific

statutory authority to regulate privacy matters relating to unmanned aircraft systems;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as a leader in aviation pioneering and further recognizes the significant benefit to the state and nation the center provides in research and development of unmanned aircraft systems; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the efforts of the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to become one of the nation's six test sites for unmanned aircraft systems testing and research; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems is created in the legislative branch and shall consist of seven members, who, except for the member from the senate and the member from the house of representatives, shall be appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, as follows:

- (1) one senator selected by the president of the senate, who shall serve as co-chair;
- (2) one representative selected by the speaker of the house of representatives, who shall serve as co-chair;
- (3) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee;
- (4) the adjutant general of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs or the adjutant general's designee;
- (5) a member representing the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration at the University of Alaska Fairbanks;
- (6) a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics;
- (7) a member from the state Aviation Advisory Board; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the task force shall include

- (1) reviewing regulations and guidance from the Federal Aviation Administration regarding unmanned aircraft systems;
- (2) providing written recommendations, together with suggested legislation,

for a comprehensive state policy for unmanned aircraft that protects privacy and allows the use of unmanned aircraft systems for public and private applications; and

(3) submitting, not later than January 15, 2014, an initial report to the legislature and, not later than July 1, 2014, submitting a final report to the legislature; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may meet as frequently as necessary to carry out its responsibilities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may meet during and between legislative sessions and may request administrative and technical support from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the public members of the task force serve without compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force terminates on July 1, 2014.