



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6861

LCO No. 4265



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY REGARDING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT AND THE PROJECTION OF A LASER AT AN AIRCRAFT OR THE FLIGHT PATH OF AN AIRCRAFT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) As used in sections 2 to 4,
2 inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Aircraft" and "unmanned aircraft" have the same meanings as
4 provided in section 15-34 of the general statutes.

5 (2) "Ammunition" has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-
6 217 of the general statutes.

7 (3) "Armed forces of the United States" has the same meaning as
8 "armed forces" in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

9 (4) "Armed forces of the state" has the same meaning as described in
10 section 27-2 of the general statutes.

11 (5) "Deadly weapon", "dangerous instrument" and "firearm" have the

12 same meanings as provided in section 53a-3 of the general statutes.

13 (6) "Explosive or incendiary device" has the same meaning as
14 provided in section 53-206b of the general statutes.

15 (7) "Firefighter" has the same meaning as described in section 7-313g
16 of the general statutes.

17 (8) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-
18 294a of the general statutes.

19 (9) "Public service company" has the same meaning as described in
20 section 16-1 of the general statutes.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) No person shall equip an
22 aircraft or unmanned aircraft with a deadly weapon, a dangerous
23 instrument, a firearm, ammunition or an explosive or incendiary device.

24 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to
25 any aircraft or unmanned aircraft operated by (1) a member of the
26 armed forces of the United States or armed forces of the state while
27 engaged in the performance of such member's official duties, or (2) a
28 police officer while engaged in rescue services or the provision of
29 emergency services to persons who are in dangerous or perilous
30 circumstances when such aircraft or unmanned aircraft is equipped
31 with a motorized breaching tool.

32 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
33 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

34 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section,
35 "critical infrastructure facility" means the following types of properties,
36 provided any such property is completely enclosed by a fence or other
37 physical barrier that is clearly designed to exclude intruders, or the
38 property is clearly marked with a sign or signs that are posted on the
39 property that are reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders
40 and such signs indicate that entry is forbidden: (1) An electrical

41 generating facility, electric substation or switchyard or electric control
42 system, (2) a facility for storing, receiving or processing petroleum
43 products and other fuels, (3) a chemical or rubber manufacturing or
44 storage facility, (4) a correctional facility, (5) a telecommunications
45 central office or wireless telecommunications infrastructure, (6) a
46 commercial port, harbor, rail yard, truck terminal or other freight
47 transportation facility, (7) a plant for the manufacture and distribution
48 of gas, (8) a transmission facility of a television or radio station licensed
49 by the Federal Communications Commission, (9) any portion of an
50 above-ground oil, gas or chemical pipeline, (10) a dam classified as a
51 high or significant hazard by the Commissioner of Energy and
52 Environmental Protection, (11) an air navigation facility, as defined in
53 section 15-34 of the general statutes, (12) a military facility, as defined in
54 section 27-39 of the general statutes, (13) a reservoir, water treatment
55 plant, distribution system and pumping station or wastewater
56 treatment plant, collection system and pump station, (14) a government
57 office building, (15) a hospital, (16) a public safety building or facility,
58 (17) a limited access highway, as defined in section 14-1 of the general
59 statutes, (18) a state or locally owned bridge, or (19) a tunnel located on
60 a limited access highway.

61 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), no person shall (1) operate
62 an unmanned aircraft, or program an unmanned aircraft to operate, at
63 a height of less than two hundred fifty feet over or within one hundred
64 horizontal feet of a critical infrastructure facility or, in the case of a
65 tunnel, inside such tunnel, or (2) use an unmanned aircraft to conduct
66 surveillance of, gather evidence of or collect information about a critical
67 infrastructure facility without the prior approval of the owner or
68 administrator of such facility.

69 (c) (1) The provisions of subsection (1) of subsection (b) shall not
70 apply to a person operating an unmanned aircraft for commercial
71 purposes in compliance with authorization granted by the Federal
72 Aviation Administration to the extent such operation is necessary for
73 such commercial purpose.

74 (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the operation of
75 an unmanned aircraft by, or on behalf of, an employee of the federal
76 government, the state or a political subdivision of the state, a member
77 of the armed forces of the United States, a member of the armed forces
78 of the state, a firefighter, a police officer or an employee of a public
79 service company when such operation is in the performance of the
80 official duties of such employee, member, firefighter or officer.

81 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
82 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

83 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section,
84 "laser" means any device that projects a beam or point of light by means
85 of light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation or any device
86 that emits light that simulates the appearance of a laser.

87 (b) No person shall intentionally project a laser on or at an aircraft or
88 at the flight path of an aircraft.

89 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any member of the
90 armed forces of the United States, armed forces of the state or a police
91 officer acting in the performance of the official duties of such member
92 or officer.

93 (d) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be
94 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4 | <i>October 1, 2025</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit (1) equipping an unmanned aircraft with a deadly weapon, (2) operating an unmanned aircraft in close proximity to a critical infrastructure facility, and (3) projecting a laser on or at an aircraft or the flight path of an aircraft.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]