
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 11—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE COLORADO RIVER
COMMISSION OF NEVADA)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles. (BDR 44-137)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to unmanned aerial vehicles; revising provisions relating to restrictions on the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles near critical facilities to include within the term “critical facility” any transmission line that is owned, operated, inspected, maintained or repaired in whole or in part by the Colorado River Commission of Nevada; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law prohibits a person from operating an unmanned aerial vehicle
2 within a horizontal distance of 500 feet or a vertical distance of 250 feet from a
3 critical facility without the written consent of the owner of the critical facility. A
4 person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor. (NRS 493.109)
5 Existing law defines “critical facility” for this purpose to include a petroleum
6 refinery, a petroleum or chemical production, transportation, storage or processing
7 facility, a chemical manufacturing facility, a pipeline and any appurtenance thereto,
8 a wastewater treatment facility, a water treatment facility, a mine, a power
9 generating station, plant or substation, any transmission line that is owned in whole
10 or in part by an electric utility, a county, city or town jail or detention facility and
11 any prison, facility or institution under the control of the Department of
12 Corrections. (NRS 493.020) This bill expands the definition of the term “critical
13 facility” to include any transmission line that is owned, operated, inspected,
14 maintained or repaired in whole or in part by the Colorado River Commission of
15 Nevada.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 493.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 493.020 As used in NRS 493.010 to 493.120, inclusive, unless
3 the context otherwise requires:

4 1. "Aircraft" includes a balloon, airplane, hydroplane,
5 unmanned aerial vehicle and any other vehicle used for navigation
6 through the air. A hydroplane, while at rest on water and while
7 being operated on or immediately above water, is governed by the
8 rules regarding water navigation. A hydroplane while being
9 operated through the air other than immediately above water, is an
10 aircraft.

11 2. "Critical facility" means a petroleum refinery, a petroleum
12 or chemical production, transportation, storage or processing
13 facility, a chemical manufacturing facility, a pipeline and any
14 appurtenance thereto, a wastewater treatment facility, a water
15 treatment facility, a mine as that term is defined in NRS 512.006, a
16 power generating station, plant or substation and any appurtenances
17 thereto, any transmission line that is owned in whole or in part by an
18 electric utility as that term is defined in subsection 5 of NRS
19 704.187 **H** *or owned, operated, inspected, maintained or repaired*
20 *in whole or in part by the Colorado River Commission of Nevada*
21 *pursuant to NRS 538.161 or 538.166*, a county, city or town jail or
22 detention facility and any prison, facility or institution under the
23 control of the Department of Corrections. The term does not include
24 any facility or infrastructure of a utility that is located underground.

25 3. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

26 4. "Law enforcement agency" means an agency, office, bureau,
27 board, commission, department or division of this State or a political
28 subdivision of this State, the primary duty of which is to enforce the
29 law.

30 5. "Operator" includes aviator, pilot, balloonist and any other
31 person having any part in the operation of aircraft while in flight.

32 6. "Passenger" includes any person riding in an aircraft, but
33 having no part in its operation.

34 7. "Public agency" means an agency, office, bureau, board,
35 commission, department or division of this State or a political
36 subdivision of this State other than a law enforcement agency.

37 8. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means a powered aircraft of any
38 size without a human operator aboard the vehicle and that is
39 operated remotely or autonomously.

40 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

