

CHAPTER.....

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:**

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

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

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

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

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

2. “Critical facility” means a petroleum refinery, a petroleum or chemical production, transportation, storage or processing facility, a chemical manufacturing facility, a pipeline and any



appurtenance thereto, a wastewater treatment facility, a water treatment facility, a mine as that term is defined in NRS 512.006, a power generating station, plant or substation and any appurtenances thereto, any transmission line that is owned in whole or in part by an electric utility as that term is defined in subsection 5 of NRS 704.187 ***H*** ***or owned, operated, inspected, maintained or repaired in whole or in part by the Colorado River Commission of Nevada pursuant to NRS 538.161 or 538.166,*** a county, city or town jail or detention facility and any prison, facility or institution under the control of the Department of Corrections. The term does not include any facility or infrastructure of a utility that is located underground.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

