

SENATE BILL NO. 398—SENATOR SPEARMAN

MARCH 27, 2023

Referred to Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to unmanned aerial vehicles. (BDR 44-14)

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; requiring the Department of Public Safety to establish by regulation certain lists relating to certain unmanned aerial vehicles, equipment and services; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Existing law governs the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles by a public  
2 agency or law enforcement agency. (NRS 493.103-493.118) The Department of  
3 Public Safety is required to adopt regulations prescribing the public purposes for  
4 which a public agency may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle. (NRS 493.118) A  
5 “public agency” means any agency, office, bureau, board, commission, department  
6 or division of this State or a political subdivision, other than a law enforcement  
7 agency. (NRS 493.020) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Department to adopt  
8 regulations to establish: (1) a list of countries, businesses and entities from which a  
9 public agency or law enforcement agency shall not purchase or acquire any  
10 unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or services relating to the operation of  
11 an unmanned aerial vehicle; and (2) a list of unmanned aerial vehicles and other  
12 related equipment or services that a public agency or law enforcement agency shall  
13 not operate, purchase or acquire. Such lists must include, without limitation: (1) any  
14 country, business or entity from which a federal agency or contractor is prohibited  
15 from purchasing or acquiring an unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or  
16 service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle pursuant to any  
17 federal law, rule, regulation or order; and (2) any unmanned aerial vehicle or other  
18 equipment or service relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle which  
19 has been prohibited for use by a federal agency or contractor pursuant to any  
20 federal law, rule, regulation or order.



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

1       **Section 1.** NRS 493.118 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2       493.118 1. The Department shall, to the extent that money is  
3 available for this purpose, establish and maintain a registry of  
4 unmanned aerial vehicles that are operated by public agencies in this  
5 State. The Department shall include on its Internet website the  
6 information that is maintained in the registry.

7       2. A public agency shall, for each unmanned aerial vehicle the  
8 public agency intends to operate, submit to the Department, on a  
9 form provided by the Department, for inclusion in the registry:

10       (a) The name of the public agency;

11       (b) The name and contact information of each operator of the  
12 unmanned aerial vehicle;

13       (c) Sufficient information to identify the unmanned aerial  
14 vehicle; and

15       (d) A statement describing the use of the unmanned aerial  
16 vehicle by the public agency.

17       3. The Department shall, on or before February 1 of each year,  
18 prepare and submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel  
19 Bureau for submission to the Legislature, or to the Legislative  
20 Commission when the Legislature is not in regular session, a report  
21 outlining the activities of public agencies with respect to the  
22 operation of unmanned aerial vehicles in this State.

23       4. The Department shall adopt regulations prescribing the  
24 public purposes for which a public agency may operate an  
25 unmanned aerial vehicle that is registered with the Department  
26 pursuant to this section, including, without limitation:

27       (a) The provision of fire services.

28       (b) The provision of emergency medical services.

29       (c) The protection of a critical facility that is public property.

30       (d) Search and rescue operations conducted for persons and  
31 property in distress.

32       **5. *The Department shall adopt regulations to establish:***

33       ***(a) A list of countries, businesses and entities from which a***  
34 ***public agency or law enforcement agency shall not purchase or***  
35 ***acquire any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or***  
36 ***services relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle;***  
37 ***and***

38       ***(b) A list of unmanned aerial vehicles and other related***  
39 ***equipment or services that a public agency or law enforcement***  
40 ***agency shall not operate, purchase or acquire.***

41       **6. *The lists established pursuant to subsection 5 must include,***  
42 ***without limitation:***



1     ***(a) Any country, business or entity from which a federal***  
2     ***agency or contractor is prohibited from purchasing or acquiring***  
3     ***an unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service relating***  
4     ***to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle pursuant to any***  
5     ***federal law, rule, regulation or order; and***

6     ***(b) Any unmanned aerial vehicle or other equipment or service***  
7     ***relating to the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle which has***  
8     ***been prohibited for use by a federal agency or contractor pursuant***  
9     ***to any federal law, rule, regulation or order.***

10    **Sec. 2.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and  
11 approval.

12    2. Section 1 of this act becomes effective:

13    (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any  
14 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative  
15 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

16    (b) On January 1, 2024.



