

House Bill 58

By: Representatives Richardson of the 125th, Leverett of the 123rd, Thomas of the 21st, Clifton of the 131st, and Crowe of the 118th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
2 provisions relative to aviation, so as to authorize the adoption of local ordinances,
3 resolutions, regulations, or policies that restrict the flight of unmanned aircraft systems over
4 mass public gatherings; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 1 of Title 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions
9 relative to aviation, is amended by revising Code Section 6-1-4, relating to unmanned aircraft
10 system defined, preemption for unmanned aircraft systems, and operations, as follows:

11 "6-1-4.

12 (a)~~(1)~~ As used in this Code section, the term '~~unmanned~~':

13 (1) 'Flight' means the operation of an unmanned aircraft system at or below 400 feet
14 above ground level.

15 (2) 'Mass public gathering' means any event held outdoors or in a semienclosed structure
16 which is likely to attract 500 or more persons and to continue for 30 minutes or more.

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- 17 (3) 'Unmanned aircraft system' means a:
- 18 (A) A powered, aerial vehicle that:
- 19 (A)(i) Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of
- 20 direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;
- 21 (B)(ii) Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;
- 22 (C)(iii) Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; and
- 23 (D)(iv) Can be expendable or recoverable.
- 24 (Z)(B) Such term shall not include a satellite.
- 25 (b) Any ordinance, resolution, regulation, or policy of any county, municipality, or other
- 26 political subdivision of this state regulating the testing or operation of unmanned aircraft
- 27 systems shall be deemed preempted and shall be null, void, and of no force and effect;
- 28 provided, however, that a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state
- 29 may:
- 30 (1) Enforce any ordinance that was adopted on or before April 1, 2017;
- 31 (2) Adopt an ordinance that enforces Federal Aviation Administration restrictions; or
- 32 (3) Adopt an ordinance that provides for or prohibits the launch or intentional landing
- 33 of an unmanned aircraft system from or on its public property except with respect to the
- 34 operation of an unmanned aircraft system for commercial purposes;
- 35 (4) Adopt an ordinance that prohibits flight over its public property during a mass public
- 36 gathering without written authorization from the political subdivision; or
- 37 (5) Adopt an ordinance that prohibits flight over private property during a mass public
- 38 gathering without written authorization from the property owner.
- 39 (c) The state, through agency or departmental rules and regulations, may provide for or
- 40 prohibit the launch or intentional landing of an unmanned aircraft system from or on its
- 41 public property."

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SECTION 2.

43 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.