

1 H.615

2 Introduced by Representatives Emmons of Springfield, Batchelor of Derby,
3 Belaski of Windsor, Connor of Fairfield, Macaig of Williston,
4 Martel of Waterford, Morrissey of Bennington, Scheu of
5 Middlebury, and Shaw of Pittsford

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Public safety; correctional facilities; use of drones prohibited

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit, with
10 some exceptions, the use of drones near correctional facilities.

11 An act relating to prohibiting the use of drones near correctional facilities

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

14 § 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

15 * * *

16 (b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

17 * * *

18 (28) Violations of 20 V.S.A. § 4625, relating to the use of drones near
19 correctional facilities.

20 * * *

1 Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 4621 is amended to read:

2 § 4621. DEFINITIONS

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) “Correctional facility” shall have the same meaning as in 28 V.S.A.

5 § 3.

6 (2) “Drone” means a powered aerial vehicle that does not carry a human
7 operator and is able to fly autonomously or to be piloted remotely.

8 ~~(2)~~(3) “Law enforcement agency” means:

9 (A) the Vermont State Police;

10 (B) a municipal police department;

11 (C) a sheriff’s department;

12 (D) the Office of the Attorney General;

13 (E) a State’s Attorney’s office;

14 (F) the Capitol Police Department;

15 (G) the Department of Liquor Control;

16 (H) the Department of Fish and Wildlife;

17 (I) the Department of Motor Vehicles;

18 (J) a State investigator; or

19 (K) a person or entity acting on behalf of an agency listed in this

20 subdivision ~~(2)~~(3).

1 (4) “Public safety agency” shall have the same meaning as in
2 section 1841 of this title.

3 Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 4625 is added to read:

4 § 4625. CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; USE OF DRONES PROHIBITED;

5 CIVIL PENALTY

6 (a) No person shall use a drone within a horizontal distance of 500 feet or a
7 vertical distance of 400 feet of a correctional facility.

8 (b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be assessed a
9 civil penalty of not more than \$500.00.

10 (c) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the use of a drone by the
11 Department of Corrections, a law enforcement agency, a public safety agency
12 responding to an emergency, a person engaged in emergency functions or
13 emergency management pursuant to chapter 1 of this title (emergency
14 management), or a person operating a drone with the written consent of the
15 correctional facility’s supervising officer.

16 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.