

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill Number: H.3749

Bill Name: An Act relative to unmanned aerial systems

Sponsor(s): Rep. Brian Murray

Hearing Date: July 22nd, 2025 (**Reporting Date:** September 20th, 2025)

Bill History: (2023-2024) H.3429; Received favorable report from committee.
(2021-2022) H.3609; Received favorable report from committee.
(2019-2020) H.3139; Redrafted favorably by committee as H.4417.

Similar Bills: S.2438

Current Law: Creates a new §63 of MGL Chapter 90.

**Summary of
Proposed Law:**

- §1 Establishes definitions for the following terms:
- ‘Operate’ as, “to pilot, fly, control, direct, or program the flight of an unmanned aircraft system,”
 - ‘Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)’ as, “an unmanned aerial vehicle and associated elements and support equipment required for the safe and efficient operation of the UAV, including but not limited to, communications links and components that control the UAV,” and
 - ‘Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)/drone’ as, “a powered aerial vehicle that:
 - (a) Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;
 - (b) Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;
 - (c) Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely;
 - (d) Can be expendable or recoverable; and
 - (e) Weighs less than 55lbs.”

Prohibits municipalities from enacting or enforcing any ordinance regulating the use of drones except as otherwise authorized by the FAA or by state law.

Prohibits an individual from operating or permitting the operation of a drone in violation of any FAA rule or regulation in the Commonwealth, with violations punishable by a fine of \$100.

Prohibits the equipping or operation of a drone armed with a weapon capable of causing serious bodily injury or death or is otherwise capable of firing or releasing a projectile designed to cause serious bodily injury or death.

Sets penalties for violations and exempts public safety explosive ordinance personnel for the limited purpose of use of a drone for the disposal of an explosive device.

Prohibits the operation of a drone in a manner to interfere with or disrupt the flight of manned aircraft or otherwise impede the normal course of operations of any airport.

Prohibits the knowing or intentional use of a drone to interfere with first responders or law enforcement actively responding to an emergency.

Prohibits the operation of a drone for the purposes of conducting surveillance or observation of an individual, private real property, or their dwelling without that individual's consent and specifies that such improper use is deemed a violation of the right to privacy under Chapter 214 §1B.

Specifies limited exemptions for operation of a drone by law enforcement for surveillance purposes.

Requires law enforcement to destroy all images, footage, data, or recordings captured from a drone within 120 days following the date of capture unless such information contains evidence of a crime or is relevant to an ongoing investigation or judicial proceeding.