
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1338 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, PENNYCUICK, VOGEL, STEFANO, MASTRIANO
AND J. WARD, OCTOBER 7, 2024

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, OCTOBER 7, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in aviation, authorizing the
3 Department of Transportation to enter into interstate
4 agreements for research and deployment relating to unmanned
5 aircraft systems.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 74 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 67

11 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

12 Subchapter

13 A. Interstate Agreements for Research and Deployment

14 SUBCHAPTER A

15 INTERSTATE AGREEMENTS FOR RESEARCH AND DEPLOYMENT

16 Sec.

17 6701. Definitions.

18 6702. Interstate agreements.

19 § 6701. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
2 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
3 context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Unmanned aircraft system" or "UAS." An aircraft operated
7 without the possibility of direct human intervention from within
8 or on the aircraft.

9 § 6702. Interstate agreements.

10 (a) Agreements authorized.--The department, on behalf of the
11 Commonwealth, may negotiate one or more interstate agreements
12 with a regulatory agency or educational or research institution
13 recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration for the
14 research, testing, deployment, training or education of unmanned
15 aircraft systems.

16 (b) Approval required.--An interstate agreement negotiated
17 by the department under subsection (a) shall become effective
18 upon approval by the Governor.

19 (c) Administration of agreement.--Following approval under
20 subsection (b), the department may enter into an agreement with
21 a person to administer the research, testing, deployment,
22 training or education of a UAS on behalf of the department if
23 the person is:

24 (1) located on or near an airport in this Commonwealth;

25 (2) an educational institution that offers aviation
26 courses in a county of the fourth or sixth class; or

27 (3) a municipality that is located within a county of
28 the fourth or sixth class.

29 (d) Operation of UAS.--A UAS may operate in this
30 Commonwealth only if the UAS is:

1 (1) a party to an interstate agreement entered into
2 under this section; and

3 (2) authorized to operate under Federal law, regulation
4 or guidelines.

5 (e) Regulations.--

6 (1) In order to facilitate the prompt implementation of
7 this chapter, the department may promulgate temporary
8 regulations that shall expire no later than three years after
9 publication or upon promulgation of final-form regulations,
10 whichever is sooner. The temporary regulations shall not be
11 subject to:

12 (i) Section 612 of the act of April 9, 1929
13 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of
14 1929.

15 (ii) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act
16 of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the
17 Commonwealth Documents Law.

18 (iii) Section 204(b) of the act of October 15, 1980
19 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth Attorneys
20 Act.

21 (iv) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181),
22 known as the Regulatory Review Act.

23 (2) The department's authority to adopt temporary
24 regulations under paragraph (1) shall expire three years
25 after the effective date of this paragraph.

26 (f) Publication of interstate agreements.--The department
27 shall transmit a notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
28 publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania
29 Bulletin when an interstate agreement under this section is
30 entered into and becomes effective.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.