

SENATE BILL NO. 196

INTRODUCED BY M. ROSENDALE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT LIMITING THE USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PRIVATE USERS; PROHIBITING THE USE OF UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED INFORMATION AS EVIDENCE IN COURT; AND AMENDING SECTION 46-1-202, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Prohibition on use of unmanned aerial vehicles -- penalty.** (1) (a) A

person commits the offense of unmanned aerial vehicle data collection if a person purposely or knowingly operates an unmanned aerial vehicle in or upon the premises of another for the purpose of acquiring information through the use of a sensing device that is capable of acquiring data from its surroundings, including but not limited to a camera, microphone, thermal detector, chemical detector, radiation gauge, and wireless receiver.

(b) Information obtained from the unlawful operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle is not admissible as evidence in any proceeding and may not be used for any purpose.

(c) A person convicted of the offense of unmanned aerial vehicle data collection shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500 or be incarcerated in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "unmanned aerial vehicle" means an aircraft that is operated without direct human intervention from on or within the aircraft.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Prohibition on use of unmanned aerial vehicles and use of evidence**

**acquired -- exceptions.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (4), it is unlawful for a peace officer or law enforcement agency to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle for the purpose of data collection.

(2) An unmanned aerial vehicle may be used only to conduct a search that is made:

(a) pursuant to the authority of a search warrant; or

(b) in accordance with judicially recognized exceptions to the warrant requirement.

(3) Information obtained from the unlawful operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle is not admissible as evidence in any prosecution or proceeding and may not be used in an affidavit of probable cause in an effort to obtain a search warrant.



1 (4) It is lawful under this section for a state or federal agency to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle for  
2 the sole purpose of monitoring public lands and international borders, provided that no part of any personal  
3 information and no evidence derived from the operation may be received in evidence in any prosecution or  
4 proceeding unless the state or federal agency complies with the provisions of subsection (2).

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6 **Section 3.** Section 46-1-202, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"46-1-202. Definitions.** As used in this title, unless the context requires otherwise, the following  
8 definitions apply:

9 (1) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual certified as an advanced practice  
10 registered nurse provided for in 37-8-202, with a clinical specialty in psychiatric mental health nursing.

11 (2) "Arraignment" means the formal act of calling the defendant into open court to enter a plea answering  
12 a charge.

13 (3) "Arrest" means taking a person into custody in the manner authorized by law.

14 (4) "Arrest warrant" means a written order from a court directed to a peace officer or to some other  
15 person specifically named commanding that officer or person to arrest another. The term includes the original  
16 warrant of arrest and a copy certified by the issuing court.

17 (5) "Bail" means the security given for the primary purpose of ensuring the presence of the defendant  
18 in a pending criminal proceeding.

19 (6) "Charge" means a written statement that accuses a person of the commission of an offense, that is  
20 presented to a court, and that is contained in a complaint, information, or indictment.

21 (7) "Conviction" means a judgment or sentence entered upon a guilty or nolo contendere plea or upon  
22 a verdict or finding of guilty rendered by a legally constituted jury or by a court of competent jurisdiction authorized  
23 to try the case without a jury.

24 (8) "Court" means a place where justice is judicially administered and includes the judge of the court.

25 (9) "Data collection" means acquiring information through the use of a sensing device that is capable  
26 of acquiring data from its surroundings, including but not limited to a camera, microphone, thermal detector,  
27 chemical detector, radiation gauge, and wireless receiver.

28 ~~(9)~~(10) "Included offense" means an offense that:

29 (a) is established by proof of the same or less than all the facts required to establish the commission of  
30 the offense charged;

1 (b) consists of an attempt to commit the offense charged or to commit an offense otherwise included in  
2 the offense charged; or

3 (c) differs from the offense charged only in the respect that a less serious injury or risk to the same  
4 person, property, or public interest or a lesser kind of culpability suffices to establish its commission.

5 ~~(10)~~(11) "Judge" means a person who is vested by law with the power to perform judicial functions.

6 ~~(11)~~(12) "Judgment" means an adjudication by a court that the defendant is guilty or not guilty, and if the  
7 adjudication is that the defendant is guilty, it includes the sentence pronounced by the court.

8 ~~(12)~~(13) "Make available for examination and reproduction" means to make material and information that  
9 is subject to disclosure available upon request at a designated place during specified reasonable times and to  
10 provide suitable facilities or arrangements for reproducing it. The term does not mean that the disclosing party  
11 is required to make copies at its expense, to deliver the materials or information to the other party, or to supply  
12 the facilities or materials required to carry out tests on disclosed items. The parties may by mutual consent make  
13 other or additional arrangements.

14 ~~(13)~~(14) "New trial" means a reexamination of the issue in the same court before another jury after a  
15 verdict or finding has been rendered.

16 ~~(14)~~(15) "Notice to appear" means a written direction that is issued by a peace officer and that requests  
17 a person to appear before a court at a stated time and place to answer a charge for the alleged commission of  
18 an offense.

19 ~~(15)~~(16) "Offense" means a violation of any penal statute of this state or any ordinance of its political  
20 subdivisions.

21 ~~(16)~~(17) "Parole" means the release to the community of a prisoner by a decision of the board of pardons  
22 and parole prior to the expiration of the prisoner's term subject to conditions imposed by the board of pardons  
23 and parole and the supervision of the department of corrections.

24 ~~(17)~~(18) "Peace officer" means any person who by virtue of the person's office or public employment is  
25 vested by law with a duty to maintain public order and make arrests for offenses while acting within the scope  
26 of the person's authority.

27 ~~(18)~~(19) "Persistent felony offender" means an offender who has previously been convicted of a felony  
28 and who is presently being sentenced for a second felony committed on a different occasion than the first. An  
29 offender is considered to have been previously convicted of a felony if:

30 (a) the previous felony conviction was for an offense committed in this state or any other jurisdiction for

1 which a sentence of imprisonment in excess of 1 year could have been imposed;

2 (b) less than 5 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and either:

3 (i) the previous felony conviction; or

4 (ii) the offender's release on parole or otherwise from prison or other commitment imposed as a result  
5 of a previous felony conviction; and

6 (c) the offender has not been pardoned on the ground of innocence and the conviction has not been set  
7 aside at the postconviction hearing.

8 ~~(19)~~(20) "Place of trial" means the geographical location and political subdivision in which the court that  
9 will hear the cause is situated.

10 ~~(20)~~(21) "Preliminary examination" means a hearing before a judge for the purpose of determining if there  
11 is probable cause to believe a felony has been committed by the defendant.

12 ~~(21)~~(22) "Probation" means release by the court without imprisonment of a defendant found guilty of a  
13 crime. The release is subject to the supervision of the department of corrections upon direction of the court.

14 ~~(22)~~(23) "Prosecutor" means an elected or appointed attorney who is vested by law with the power to  
15 initiate and carry out criminal proceedings on behalf of the state or a political subdivision.

16 ~~(23)~~(24) "Same transaction" means conduct consisting of a series of acts or omissions that are motivated  
17 by:

18 (a) a purpose to accomplish a criminal objective and that are necessary or incidental to the  
19 accomplishment of that objective; or

20 (b) a common purpose or plan that results in the repeated commission of the same offense or effect upon  
21 the same person or the property of the same person.

22 ~~(24)~~(25) "Search warrant" means an order that is:

23 (a) in writing;

24 (b) in the name of the state;

25 (c) signed by a judge;

26 (d) a particular description of the place, object, or person to be searched and the evidence, contraband,  
27 or person to be seized; and

28 (e) directed to a peace officer and commands the peace officer to search for evidence, contraband, or  
29 persons.

30 ~~(25)~~(26) "Sentence" means the judicial disposition of a criminal proceeding upon a plea of guilty or nolo

1 contendere or upon a verdict or finding of guilty.

2 ~~(26)~~(27) "Statement" means:

3 (a) a writing signed or otherwise adopted or approved by a person;

4 (b) a video or audio recording of a person's communications or a transcript of the communications; and

5 (c) a writing containing a summary of a person's oral communications or admissions.

6 ~~(27)~~(28) "Summons" means a written order issued by the court that commands a person to appear before  
7 a court at a stated time and place to answer a charge for the offense set forth in the order.

8 ~~(28)~~(29) "Superseded notes" means handwritten notes, including field notes, that have been substantially  
9 incorporated into a statement. The notes may not be considered a statement and are not subject to disclosure  
10 except as provided in 46-15-324.

11 ~~(29)~~(30) "Temporary road block" means any structure, device, or means used by a peace officer for the  
12 purpose of controlling all traffic through a point on the highway where all vehicles may be slowed or stopped.

13 (31) "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means an aircraft that is operated without direct human intervention from  
14 on or within the aircraft.

15 ~~(30)~~(32) "Witness" means a person whose testimony is desired in a proceeding or investigation by a  
16 grand jury or in a criminal action, prosecution, or proceeding.

17 ~~(31)~~(33) "Work product" means legal research, records, correspondence, reports, and memoranda, both  
18 written and oral, to the extent that they contain the opinions, theories, and conclusions of the prosecutor, defense  
19 counsel, or their staff or investigators."  
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21 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction. (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
22 integral part of Title 45, chapter 5, part 2, and the provisions of Title 45, chapter 5, part 2, apply to [section 1].

23 (2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 46, chapter 5, and the provisions of  
24 Title 46, chapter 5, apply to [section 2].  
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- END -