

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4759

To prohibit the use of certain unmanned aircraft vehicles in the United States to conduct surveillance of United States persons engaged in protests or civil disobedience.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the use of certain unmanned aircraft vehicles in the United States to conduct surveillance of United States persons engaged in protests or civil disobedience.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ban Military Drones
5 Spying on Civilians Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO USE**
2 **CERTAIN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT VEHICLES IN**
3 **THE UNITED STATES TO CONDUCT SURVEIL-**
4 **LANCE OF UNITED STATES PERSONS EN-**
5 **GAGED IN PROTESTS OR CIVIL DISOBE-**
6 **DIENCE.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to
8 be appropriated for fiscal year 2026 or any fiscal year
9 thereafter for the Department of Homeland Security, the
10 Department of Defense, or any other executive agency
11 may be used to operate a covered unmanned aircraft vehi-
12 cle in the United States to conduct surveillance of United
13 States persons engaged in protests or civil disobedience.

14 (b) REPORTS.—

15 (1) REQUIREMENT.—On an annual basis, the
16 President shall transmit to the appropriate congres-
17 sional committees a report on the use of covered un-
18 manned aircraft vehicles in the United States during
19 the period covered by the report.

20 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph
21 (1) shall include, with respect to the period covered
22 by the report, the following:

23 (A) A list of each individual instance in
24 which a covered unmanned aircraft vehicle was
25 used—

26 (i) for a novel purpose; or

1 (ii) for a purpose not authorized by
2 Congress, including with respect to a use
3 by one executive agency for an authorized
4 purpose to assist another executive agency
5 that is not authorized to carry out such
6 purpose.

7 (B) With respect to each instance of a use
8 of a covered unmanned aircraft vehicle listed
9 under subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) the purpose of such use;

11 (ii) a justification for using a covered
12 unmanned aircraft vehicle, including an
13 analysis of why such use was required
14 rather than using alternative means more
15 traditionally used in a civilian context, in-
16 cluding helicopters or smaller, lower-alti-
17 tude civilian unmanned aerial vehicles;

18 (iii) the dates and time of such use;

19 (iv) the duration of such use;

20 (v) the location of such use;

21 (vi) the model of covered unmanned
22 aircraft vehicle used;

23 (vii) identification of—

24 (I) any sensors, cameras, and
25 other monitoring equipment equipped

1 on the covered unmanned aircraft ve-
2 hicle; and

3 (II) any weapons equipped on the
4 covered unmanned aircraft vehicle;

5 (viii) a description of the process for
6 approving such use, including both the
7 process of the executive agency and any
8 interagency process; and

9 (ix) whether any United States per-
10 sons were surveilled for any reason, and if
11 so—

12 (I) whether the executive agency
13 identified any United States person;

14 (II) the number of such United
15 States persons identified;

16 (III) the purpose for identifying
17 such United States persons;

18 (IV) whether the executive agen-
19 cy disseminated such United States
20 person information to any other exec-
21 utive agency or a non-Federal Govern-
22 ment entity; and

23 (V) the period that the executive
24 agency will retain such United States
25 person information.

1 (3) FORM.—The reports under paragraph (1)
2 may be submitted in classified form or include a
3 classified annex.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” means the following:

7 (A) The Committees on Armed Services
8 and Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives.

10 (B) The Committees on Armed Services
11 and Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
12 fairs of the Senate.

13 (C) The Permanent Select Committee on
14 Intelligence of the House of Representatives
15 and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the
16 Senate.

17 (2) The term “covered unmanned aircraft vehi-
18 cle” means any of the following:

19 (A) The MQ–9 Reaper, or variants thereof.

20 (B) Any unmanned aircraft that—

21 (i) uses an airframe initially developed
22 for use by the Armed Forces;

23 (ii) is a medium-altitude, long-endur-
24 ance aircraft or a high-altitude, long-en-
25 durance aircraft; or

1 (iii) is capable of flying at an altitude
2 of 10,000 feet or higher.

3 (3) The term “executive agency” has the mean-
4 ing given that term in section 105 of title 5, United
5 States Code.

6 (4) The term “United States person” has the
7 meaning given that term in section 1637 of the Carl
8 Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National De-
9 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (50
10 U.S.C. 1708).

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