

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3132

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of unauthorized unmanned aircrafts over wildfires.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2018

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the use of unauthorized unmanned aircrafts over wildfires.

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 “Securing Airspace for
5 Emergency Responders Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION.**

7 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 40A. Use of unauthorized unmanned aircrafts over**
 2 **wildfires**

3 “(a) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In this sec-
 4 tion, the term ‘unmanned aircraft’ has the meaning given
 5 the term in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and
 6 Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

7 “(b) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person
 8 to operate an unmanned aircraft over a wildfire without
 9 authorization from relevant Federal agency personnel or
 10 any individual designated by a State or unit of local gov-
 11 ernment to authorize such activity.

12 “(c) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection
 13 (b) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not less
 14 than 1 year, or both.”.

15 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of
 16 section for chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is
 17 amended by inserting after the item relating to section 40
 18 the following:

“40A. Use of unauthorized unmanned aircrafts over wildfires.”.

