

118TH CONGRESS
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H. R. 10555

To create mechanisms by which state law enforcement can coordinate with the federal government to detect and stop drones involved in unlawful activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. VAN DREW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and 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 create mechanisms by which state law enforcement can coordinate with the federal government to detect and stop drones involved in unlawful activities, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Law Against Nefarious Drones, Enforcement,
6 Deconfliction Act” or the “LANDED Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Counter-UAS mitigation law enforcement cooperation.
- Sec. 4. Mandatory drone deconfliction reporting.
- Sec. 5. Rapid response.
- Sec. 6. Counter-UAS Security Grant Program.
- Sec. 7. Review and report on UAS activity.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) APPLICATION OF TERMS.—Unless otherwise spec-
 5 ified, the terms in section 44801 of title 49, United States
 6 Code, shall apply to this Act.

7 (b) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

8 (1) APPROVED COUNTER-UAS DETECTION SYS-
 9 TEM.—The term “approved counter-UAS detection
 10 system” means a system or device capable of law-
 11 fully and safely disabling disrupting or seizing con-
 12 trol of an unmanned aircraft system.

13 (2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The Term
 14 “unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned
 15 aircraft and associated elements (including commu-
 16 nications links and components that control the un-
 17 manned aircraft) that are required for the operator
 18 to operate safely and efficiently in the national air-
 19 space system.

20 (3) THREATS POSED BY AN UNMANNED AIR-
 21 CRAFT OR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The
 22 term “threats posed by an unmanned aircraft sys-

1 tem or unmanned aircraft system” means an unau-
2 thorized activity of an unmanned aircraft or un-
3 manned aircraft system that is reasonably believed
4 to—

5 (A) create the potential for bodily harm to,
6 or loss of human life of;

7 (C) poses a threat to law enforcement,
8 public safety, and national security installa-
9 tions, and or critical infrastructure; or

10 (B) have the potential to cause severe eco-
11 nomic damage.

12 **SEC. 3. COUNTER-UAS MITIGATION LAW ENFORCEMENT**
13 **COOPERATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
15 propriations for such purpose, the Secretary of Homeland
16 Security, in coordination with the Attorney General and
17 the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration,
18 shall establish appropriate policies, procedures, and proto-
19 cols necessary to allow the State law enforcement agency
20 in each State (in coordination with the Secretary, Attorney
21 General, and Administrator) to acquire, deploy, operate,
22 and train with approved counter-UAS mitigation systems
23 and mitigate unauthorized UAS operations.

24 (b) REQUIRED APPLICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
2 the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination
3 with the Attorney General and the Administrator,
4 shall establish an application process to authorize
5 the acquisition, deployment, and operation of an ap-
6 proved counter-UAS mitigation system, equipment,
7 or technology by State law enforcement agencies.

8 (c) AGREEMENTS.—Upon approval of an application
9 required under subsection (b) by the Secretary of Home-
10 land Security, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement
11 with the applicable State law enforcement agency to au-
12 thorize the acquisition, deployment, operation of an ap-
13 proved counter-UAS mitigation system, equipment, or
14 technology, that shall specify, at a minimum—

15 (1) the approved counter-UAS mitigation sys-
16 tem, equipment, or technology to be operated;

17 (2) the authority to respond to threats posed by
18 an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft
19 system;

20 (3) the time periods, dates, and circumstances
21 during which the counter-UAS mitigation system,
22 equipment, or technology may be operated;

23 (4) any terms and conditions on the deployment
24 and operation of an approved counter-UAS mitiga-

1 tion system, equipment, or technology the Secretary
2 determines necessary to ensure public safety;

3 (5) the frequency with which the appropriate
4 Federal agency representatives shall conduct peri-
5 odic site visits to ensure compliance with the ap-
6 proved terms and conditions of deployment and op-
7 erations of the approved counter-UAS mitigation
8 system, equipment, or technology; and

9 (6) the post-event reporting requirements speci-
10 fied in subsection (d)(3).

11 (d) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section
12 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or sections 32,
13 1030, 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, United
14 States Code, any State law enforcement agency which has
15 been approved through the application process described
16 in paragraph (b)(1) may authorize personnel with as-
17 signed duties that include the safety, security, or protec-
18 tion of people, facilities, or assets to take such actions as
19 are described in subsection (g) that are necessary to de-
20 tect, identify, monitor, track, or mitigate a credible threat
21 posed by an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft sys-
22 tem.

23 (e) FCC.—

24 (1) OTHER INTERFERENCE.—In establishing
25 minimum performance requirements under sub-

1 section 3 (a), the Administrator shall consider cri-
2 teria, as determined by the Chair of the Federal
3 Communications Commission, to determine the ex-
4 tent to which counter-UAS detection and mitigation
5 systems, equipment, or technology can be safely op-
6 erated without disrupting or interfering with the op-
7 eration of civilian communications and information
8 technology networks and systems, including such
9 networks and systems that rely on radio frequency
10 or cellular network communications links.

11 (2) SPECTRUM IMPACT CONSULTATION.—The
12 Secretary, the Attorney General, and the Adminis-
13 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall
14 consult with the Chair of the Federal Communica-
15 tions Commission or the Administrator of the Na-
16 tional Telecommunications and Information Admin-
17 istration as appropriate, to determine whether the
18 use of counter-UAS detection or mitigation system,
19 equipment, or technology approved for use by the
20 Department of Homeland Security does not present
21 an adverse impact on civilian telecommunications
22 spectrum, internet or radio communication network
23 or systems.

24 (f) EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZATION.—Any equipment
25 authorized to be acquired under this act may be author-

1 ized by either the Secretary of Homeland Security or the
2 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

3 (g) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The actions authorized in
4 subsection (d) are the following:

5 (1) During the operation of the unmanned air-
6 craft system or unmanned aircraft, detecting, identi-
7 fying, monitoring, and tracking the unmanned air-
8 craft system or unmanned aircraft, without prior
9 consent, including by means of intercept or other ac-
10 cess of a wire communication, an oral communica-
11 tion, or an electronic communication used to control
12 the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

13 (2) Warn the operator of the unmanned aircraft
14 system or unmanned aircraft, including by passive
15 or active, and direct or indirect, physical, electronic,
16 radio, and electromagnetic means.

17 (3) Disrupt control of the unmanned aircraft
18 system or unmanned aircraft, without prior consent
19 of the operator of the unmanned aircraft system or
20 unmanned aircraft, including by disabling the un-
21 manned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft by
22 intercepting, interfering, or causing interference with
23 wire, oral, electronic, or radio communications used
24 to control the unmanned aircraft system or un-
25 manned aircraft.

1 (4) Seize or exercise control of the unmanned
2 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

3 (5) Seize or otherwise confiscate the unmanned
4 aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

5 (6) Use reasonable force, if necessary, to dis-
6 able, damage, or destroy the unmanned aircraft sys-
7 tem or unmanned aircraft.

8 (h) REQUIRED COORDINATION AND NOTIFICA-
9 TION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Until the date that is 180
11 days after the initial deployment of an authorized
12 counter-UAS system, equipment, or technology, the
13 Secretary of Homeland Security shall expressly ap-
14 prove, on a case-by-case basis, the mitigation of un-
15 manned aircraft system by a State law enforcement
16 agency under this section.

17 (2) VERIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION.—In car-
18 rying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland
19 Security shall—

20 (A) verify that there is a justifiable threat
21 that warrants the use of such counter-UAS sys-
22 tem, equipment, or technology;

23 (B) verify that the use of such counter-
24 UAS system, equipment, or technology will—

1 (i) be conducted in a manner con-
2 sistent with the agreement between the
3 Secretary and the State law enforcement
4 agency; and

5 (ii) abide by all safety protocols,
6 terms, and conditions established for the
7 use of such system, equipment, or tech-
8 nology at the covered site; and

9 (C) immediately notify the Administrator
10 of the Federal Aviation Administration of the
11 approval provided under this paragraph.

12 (3) REPORT.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24
14 hours after each mitigation of a UAS conducted
15 under the authorities in this section, the rel-
16 evant State law enforcement agency shall sub-
17 mit to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
18 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
19 tration, and the Attorney General a post-event
20 report.

21 (B) CONTENTS.—The report under sub-
22 paragraph (A) shall include all relevant infor-
23 mation pertaining to the event, including the
24 drone operation, and subsequent mitigation and

1 enforcement actions, and subsequent enforce-
2 ment actions, as specified by the Secretary.

3 (i) REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall
4 revoke the authorization or approval for
5 the deployment and operation of an ap-
6 proved counter-UAS mitigation system,
7 equipment, or technology pursuant to this
8 section if the Secretary determines that the
9 covered entity has not—

10 (1) maintained an agreement that is acceptable
11 to the Secretary with a State law enforcement agen-
12 cy to operate such approved counter-UAS mitigation
13 system, equipment, or technology on behalf of the
14 covered entity; and

15 (2) complied with the privacy protections under
16 section 210G(e) of the Homeland Security Act of
17 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(e)).

18 (j) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
19 with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
20 tration and the Attorney General in carrying out the appli-
21 cation, agreement, and revocation processes under this
22 section.

23 (k) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

24 (1) AIRSPACE CONSIDERATIONS.—The Adminis-
25 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in co-

1 ordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security
2 and the Attorney General, shall make a location-spe-
3 cific determination for each applicable state law en-
4 forcement agency selected under the approval proc-
5 ess established under this section to ensure that any
6 potential use of counter-UAS mitigation systems,
7 equipment, or technology will not interfere with or
8 adversely impact the safe operation of the national
9 airspace system, including any airport that is located
10 within the state.

11 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION.—If an
12 adverse impact is identified under paragraph (1) and
13 cannot be safely mitigated to the satisfaction of the
14 Administrator, the applicable state law enforcement
15 is not eligible for to use counter-UAS systems within
16 a range determined by the Federal Aviation Admin-
17 istrator of the site of interference.

18 **SEC. 4 MANDATORY DRONE DECONFLICTION REPORTING.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-
20 propriations for such purpose, not later than 180 days
21 after the first determination that a counter-UAS system
22 with mitigation capabilities meets the requirements of sec-
23 tion 44810(e) of title 49, United States Code, the Sec-
24 retary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Ad-
25 ministrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall

1 establish appropriate policies to ensure deconfliction be-
2 tween federal, state, or local agencies regarding drones
3 flown by other federal, state, or local agencies.

4 (b) MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
6 the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination
7 with the Administrator, shall establish a mandatory
8 non-emergency reporting requirement mechanism for
9 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

10 (2) MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

11 The reporting requirement described in paragraph
12 (1) shall contain—

13 (A) A database containing a drone which is
14 currently being used in a non-emergency oper-
15 ation’s transponder ID and the date and time
16 of its usage.

17 (B) A method for federal, state, and local
18 law enforcement to check if a drone’s trans-
19 pponder is within the database and is currently
20 in use.

21 **SEC. 5 RAPID RESPONSE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
23 sion of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security may
24 act rapidly to respond to a State request for assistance
25 on a UAS mitigation situation in an emergency.

1 (b) PROCESS FOR RESPONDING.—The Secretary of
2 Homeland Security shall establish a process for rapid re-
3 sponse described in subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 6 COUNTER-UAS SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
6 Department a program to be known as the “Counter-UAS
7 Security Grant Program” (in this section referred to as
8 the “Program”). Under the Program, the Secretary, act-
9 ing through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligi-
10 ble state law enforcement and emergency management
11 agencies for the acquisition of counter-UAS equipment.

12 (b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Eligible recipients are
13 law enforcement agencies of States.

14 (c) PERMITTED USES.—The recipient of a grant
15 under this section may use such grant for any of the fol-
16 lowing uses—

17 (1) acquisition of approved counter-UAS sys-
18 tems;

19 (2) fees for training approved personnel; and

20 (3) any other appropriate activity, including ad-
21 ministrative activities, as determined by the Admin-
22 istrator.

23 (d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator
24 shall make funds provided under this section available for

1 use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than
2 24 months.

3 **SEC. 7 REVIEW AND REPORT ON UAS ACTIVITY.**

4 (a) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Depart-
5 ment of Defense shall conduct a review of potential foreign
6 adversary connected UAS Activity over critical military in-
7 stallations, vessels, aircraft, and the Homeland, and other
8 matters.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to
11 the relevant committees a report on—

12 (1) UAS activity over military installations in
13 the United States and abroad,

14 (2) UAS activity in close proximity to sensitive
15 national security installations,

16 (3) instances of UAS activity in the vicinity of
17 U.S. military and law enforcement vessels and air-
18 craft,

19 (4) instances of the executive branch not shar-
20 ing UAP information with Congress when requested,

21 (5) the process for deploying counter-UAS sys-
22 tems to assist state and local law enforcement,

23 (6) instances where the Department of Defense
24 deployed counter-UAS systems to assist state and
25 local law enforcement, and

1 (7) an analysis of near-peer actors who posses
2 the capabilities to conduct such activities.

3 (c) DEFINITION OF RELEVANT COMMITTEE.—In this
4 section, the term “relevant committees” means—

5 (1) the Committees on Armed Services of the
6 House of Representatives and the Senate;

7 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security of the
8 House of Representatives and the Committee on
9 Homeland Security and the Government Affairs of
10 the Senate;

11 (3) the Committee on Transportation and In-
12 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the
13 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
14 tation of the Senate;

15 (4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on the
17 Judiciary of the Senate;

18 (5) the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
19 ligence of the House of Representatives, the Select
20 Committee on Intelligence in the Senate;

21 (6) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee on
23 Foreign Relations in the Senate; and

24 (7) the Committee on Oversight and Account-
25 ability of the House of Representatives.

1 (2) FORM.—The reports required under sub-
2 sections (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
3 but may include a classified annex.

○