

HB 2710

Guidance on Use of Drones in Oregon

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or “drones” are the latest in surveillance technology to reach domestic airspace and yet current law does not adequately address the significant privacy issues that their increased use will raise:

- **Increased Surveillance.** The high cost of manned aircraft (helicopters, for example) has always imposed a limit on the government’s aerial surveillance capacity. The low cost and flexibility of drones erode that limit.
 - **More invasive technology.** New technology, such as face recognition and see-through imaging, provide more and better detail from greater distances.
 - **Free speech.** Surveillance curtails individual liberty and freedom by placing Oregonians under fear of constant monitoring and scrutiny, leading innocent people to curtail their free expression activities for fear of punishment by government.
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HB 2710 is a compromise bill amongst a diverse group of stakeholders that provides guidance on use of drones in the following ways:

- Prohibits use of drones by law enforcement with exceptions:
 - Pursuant to a warrant based on probable cause, including exceptions for exigent circumstances,
 - With consent of the individual being surveilled,
 - For search and rescue, or in an emergency, including a state of emergency declared by the Governor,
 - To map a crime or accident scene,
 - For law enforcement training purposes where information collected is used only for training.
- Imposes conditions of use of drones by public bodies (except the military):
 - Beginning in 2016, must register drones with Oregon Department of Aviation and report annually to Oregon Department of Aviation on use,
 - May not use footage in any adjudicatory proceeding unless licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (provision sunsets in 2016).
- Prohibits public body use of drones capable of being used as a weapon.
- Criminalizes intentional interference with a drone operation and imposes civil penalties for interference and for trespass.
- Preempts local governments from regulating use of drones.
- Directs Oregon Department of Aviation to report to an interim legislative committee on status of federal regulations of drones.