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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO AERONAUTICS

Introduced By: Representatives Gallison, Marshall, Abney, Shekarchi, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 1 of the General Laws entitled "AERONAUTICS" is hereby amended  
2 by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 8

4 THE RHODE ISLAND UNPILOTED AERIAL VEHICLES ACT OF 2016

5 **1-8-1. Short title.** – This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Rhode Island  
6 Unpiloted Aerial Vehicles Act of 2016."

7 **1-8-2. Exclusive aerial regulations.** – The state of Rhode Island shall have exclusive  
8 legal authority to regulate any unpiloted aerial vehicles, remotely piloted aircraft, or unmanned  
9 aircraft systems, hereinafter referred to and described as "drones."

10 **1-8-3. Registration.** – (a) Any drone sold, possessed, or operated in Rhode Island must  
11 be registered with the department of public safety.

12 (b) Information provided in accordance with § 1-8-3(a) must include the drone's serial  
13 number, name of manufacturer, specifications, and any other available identifying information.

14 (c) The registration required by § 1-8-3(a) shall be subject to a fifteen dollar (\$15.00)  
15 registration fee payable to the Rhode Island department of public safety.

16 **1-8-4. Areas of prohibited operation.** – (a) No drone shall be operated:

17 (1) Within five (5) miles of T.F. Green state airport and the Quonset Point naval air  
18 station;

19 (2) Within five (5) miles of any military installation;

- 1           (3) Within two (2) miles of any other state airport;
- 2           (4) Within two (2) miles of any emergency aeronautic vehicle, including, without
- 3 limitation, a medi-vac helicopter;
- 4           (5) Within one-half (1/2) mile of any government building;
- 5           (6) Within one-half (1/2) mile of any school, college, or university.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 11-64 of the General Laws entitled "Electronic Imaging Devices"  
7 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

8           **11-64-3. Invasion of privacy by drone.** – (a) No person shall use a drone, as defined in §  
9 1-8-2, equipped with a device capable of capturing, recording, storing, or transmitting visual  
10 images, to look into an occupied dwelling house or other building.

11           (b) A person found guilty of the crime of invasion of privacy by drone shall be  
12 imprisoned for not more than three (3) years and/or fined not more than five thousand dollars  
13 (\$5,000).

14           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO AERONAUTICS

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1           This act would establish registration requirements and operational restrictions for  
2 unpiloted aerial vehicles, remotely piloted aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems ("drones"), and  
3 would criminalize the invasion of privacy by use of such aircraft.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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