

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 76

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Urges FAA to expand restrictions on flights of unmanned aerial vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Federal Aviation
2 Administration to promulgate rules and regulations expanding
3 prohibitions of unmanned aerial vehicle flights over populated
4 areas.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to the “FAA Modernization and Reform Act of
7 2012,” Pub. L. 112-95, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
8 is responsible for regulating unmanned aerial vehicles, also known
9 as drones; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Pursuant to this act, the FAA is charged with determining
11 whether certain unmanned aerial vehicles may operate safely in the
12 national airspace system and, if it is determined that safe operation
13 is possible, the FAA is required to establish requirements for the
14 safe operation of such vehicles in the national airspace system; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The FAA has restricted the flight of unmanned aerial
16 vehicles over certain populated areas such as aerial demonstrations
17 and major sporting events; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Current FAA restrictions do not adequately regulate flights
19 of unmanned aerial vehicles and, therefore, do not sufficiently
20 protect against potential risk of harm caused by these vehicles; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Flight of unmanned aerial vehicles is currently restricted
22 over stadiums during Major League Baseball, National Football
23 League, and NCAA football games, and motor speedway events;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, Unmanned aerial vehicles have been reported over parades
26 and have crashed into the stands of stadiums at sporting events
27 where flight is not currently restricted by the FAA; and

28 **WHEREAS**, The FAA recently reported a drastic increase in pilot
29 sightings of unmanned aerial vehicles from a total of 238 in 2014 to
30 more than 650 sightings as of August 2015; and

31 **WHEREAS**, During a nine-month period, from March through
32 November of 2014, approximately 25 incidents were reported
33 where an unmanned aerial vehicle nearly collided with a manned
34 aircraft in midair, sometimes requiring evasive action; and

35 **WHEREAS**, If not properly regulated by the FAA, future incidents
36 involving unmanned aerial vehicles could put hundreds of airplane
37 passengers, spectators, and other citizens in serious danger; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Promulgation by the FAA of regulations which expand
39 restrictions to strictly prohibit the flight of unmanned aerial vehicles
40 over all sporting events, parades, and other sensitive locations is
41 imperative in order to prevent serious future and foreseeable harm;
42 now, therefore,

43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
45 *Jersey:*

46
47 1. This House urges the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
48 Administration to promulgate rules which prohibit flight of

1 unmanned aerial vehicles over all sporting events, parades, and
2 other sensitive locations.

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4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed by the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
6 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

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STATEMENT

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11 This resolution urges the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
12 Administration (FAA) to promulgate rules and regulations to further
13 restrict the flight of unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as
14 drones, over certain populated areas.

15 Pursuant to the “FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012,”

16 Pub. L. 112-95, the FAA is responsible for regulating unmanned
17 aerial vehicles. Under the Act, the FAA is charged with
18 determining whether certain unmanned aerial vehicles may operate
19 safely in the national airspace system and, if it is determined that
20 safe operation is possible, the FAA is required to establish
21 requirements for the safe operation of such vehicles.

22 The FAA has restricted the flight of unmanned aerial vehicles
23 over certain populated areas such as aerial demonstrations and
24 major sporting events. While flight of these vehicles is currently
25 prohibited over stadiums during Major League Baseball, National
26 Football League and NCAA football games, and motor speedway
27 events, current restrictions do not adequately regulate the flight of
28 these unmanned vehicles and, therefore, do not sufficiently protect
29 against the potential risk of harm they may cause. Unmanned aerial
30 vehicles have been reported over parades, and have crashed into the
31 stands of stadiums at sporting events, including a US Open tennis
32 match, where flight is not currently restricted by the FAA.

33 The FAA recently reported a drastic increase in pilot sightings of
34 unmanned aerial vehicles from a total of 238 in 2014 to more than
35 650 sightings as of August 2015. In addition, during a nine-month
36 period, from March through November of 2014, approximately 25
37 incidents were reported where an unmanned aerial vehicles nearly
38 collided with a manned aircraft in midair, sometimes requiring
39 evasive action.

40 If not properly regulated by the FAA, future incidents involving
41 unmanned aerial vehicles could put hundreds of airplane
42 passengers, spectators, and other citizens in serious danger.
43 Promulgation by the FAA of regulations which would expand
44 restrictions to strictly prohibit the flight of unmanned aerial vehicles
45 over all sporting events, parades, and other sensitive locations is
46 imperative in order to prevent serious future and foreseeable harm.