

House Study Bill 612 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SAFETY BILL BY CHAIRPERSON
VONDRAN)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by law
- 2 enforcement officers.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.492B, Code 2026, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **321.492B Use of unmanned aerial vehicle for traffic law**
4 **enforcement prohibited.**

5 1. The Except as provided in subsection 2, the state or a
6 political subdivision of the state shall not use an unmanned
7 aerial vehicle for traffic law enforcement.

8 2. A certified law enforcement officer may operate an
9 unmanned aerial vehicle in order to assist other law enforcement
10 officers in apprehending a driver eluding or attempting to elude
11 a pursuing law enforcement vehicle in violation of section
12 321.279, and may cite the driver for any traffic violations
13 committed during the pursuit.

14 Sec. 2. Section 808.15, Code 2026, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 **808.15 Unmanned aerial vehicle — information —**
17 **admissibility.**

18 Information obtained as a result of the use of an unmanned
19 aerial vehicle is ~~not~~ admissible as evidence in a criminal or
20 civil proceeding, ~~unless the information is obtained pursuant to~~
21 ~~the authority of a search warrant~~ when the information obtained
22 is from a location that is viewable from the public navigable
23 airspace or is within public view, or unless if the information
24 is otherwise obtained in a manner that is consistent with state
25 and federal law.

26 EXPLANATION

27 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
28 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

29 This bill relates to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by
30 law enforcement officers.

31 The bill provides that a certified law enforcement officer
32 may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle in order to assist other
33 law enforcement officers in apprehending a driver eluding or
34 attempting to elude a pursuing law enforcement vehicle, and may
35 cite the driver for any traffic violations committed during the

1 pursuit.

2 The bill provides that information obtained as a result of
3 the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle is admissible as evidence
4 in a criminal or civil proceeding when the information obtained
5 is from a location that is viewable from the public navigable
6 airspace or is within public view, or if the information is
7 otherwise obtained in a manner that is consistent with state and
8 federal law.

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