

**Senate Study Bill 1191 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON ZUMBACH)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act prohibiting the use of remotely piloted aircraft flying  
2 over farm property, and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 715E.1, subsections 1, 2, and 8, Code  
2 2025, are amended by striking the subsections.

3 Sec. 2. Section 715E.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
4 following new subsections:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. "*Farm animal*" means an animal belonging  
6 to the bovine, caprine, ovine, or porcine species; farm deer as  
7 defined in section 170.1; ostriches, rheas, or emus; turkeys,  
8 geese, chickens, or other domestic poultry; or a horse, pony,  
9 mule, jenny, donkey, or hinny.

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 3B. "*Farm commodity*" means a farm animal,  
11 farm crop, or honey.

12 NEW SUBSECTION. 3C. a. "*Farm crop*" means a plant used for  
13 food, animal feed, fiber, or oil, including a forage or cereal  
14 plant.

15 b. "*Farm crop*" includes but is not limited to alfalfa,  
16 barley, buckwheat, corn, flax, forage, millet, oats, popcorn,  
17 rye, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, wheat, and grasses used for  
18 forage or silage.

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 3D. a. "*Farm equipment*" means a device or  
20 an attachment to a device designed and manufactured to be  
21 principally used for farming, including the production, care, or  
22 harvesting of a farm commodity.

23 b. "*Farm equipment*" includes but is not limited to  
24 tractors; trailers; combines; tillage, planting, and cultivating  
25 implements; balers; irrigation implements; injection and  
26 application devices; manure haulers and spreaders; and  
27 all-terrain vehicles.

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 3E. a. "*Farm structure*" means a building or  
29 other structure used in farming, including the production of farm  
30 commodities.

31 b. "*Farm structure*" includes but is not limited to the  
32 principal residence of a farmer, a formed or unformed structure  
33 that is part of an animal feeding operation as defined in section  
34 459.102 and related pipes and manure stockpiles, a barn, a  
35 stable, a storage crib, a structure used to store seeds or grain,

1 an outbuilding, and a shed.

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 3F. "Farmer" means the person who is  
3 actively engaged in farming as defined in section 9H.1.

4 NEW SUBSECTION. 3G. a. "Farmstead" means real property  
5 consisting of forty or more contiguous acres, if all of the  
6 following apply:

7 (1) The real property is owned or leased by a farmer.

8 (2) The real property is used by the farmer for farming,  
9 including the production of a farm commodity.

10 (3) At least fifteen thousand dollars was generated from the  
11 sale of farm commodities produced on the real property in the  
12 last calendar year.

13 b. "Farmstead" includes but is not limited to a crop field or  
14 pastureland.

15 c. "Farmstead" does not include any real property located  
16 within the corporate limits of a city.

17 Sec. 3. Section 715E.1, subsection 9, Code 2025, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 9. "Surveillance device" means a camera or electronic  
20 equipment that transmits or records ~~images~~ an image, ~~sounds~~  
21 sound, or data if the transmission or recording is capable of  
22 reasonably identifying any of the following:

23 a. The ~~identity~~, physical appearance, conduct, or voice of an  
24 individual.

25 b. The species of ~~an agricultural~~ a farm animal.

26 c. The type or use of farm equipment.

27 d. The type or use of a farm structure.

28 ~~e.~~ e. The unique physical characteristics of land or an  
29 improvement to land.

30 Sec. 4. Section 715E.3, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 2025,  
31 is amended to read as follows:

32 b. Controls the flight of remotely piloted aircraft over  
33 a secure farmstead area, if the ~~secure farmstead area~~ is not  
34 owned or leased by the person, and the remotely piloted aircraft  
35 remains ~~over the secure farmstead area~~ within a secured area of

1 four hundred feet surrounding a farm animal, farm equipment, or  
2 a farm structure located on the farmstead. However, the secured  
3 area shall not include any space that is in the corporate limits  
4 of a city.

5 Sec. 5. Section 715E.4, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 2025,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 b. Controls the flight of a remotely piloted aircraft  
8 equipped with a surveillance device over a ~~secure~~ farmstead  
9 ~~area~~, if the ~~secure~~ farmstead ~~area~~ is not owned or leased by  
10 the person, and the remotely piloted aircraft remains ~~over the~~  
11 ~~secure farmstead area~~ within a secured area of four hundred feet  
12 surrounding a farm animal, farm equipment, or a farm structure  
13 located on the farmstead. However, the secured area shall not  
14 include any space that is in the corporate limits of a city.

15 Sec. 6. Section 715E.5, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 1. A person who is the owner or lessee of a homestead  
18 or ~~secure~~ farmstead ~~area~~ may petition the district court to  
19 obtain an order for a temporary injunction to prevent the  
20 respondent from using any remotely piloted aircraft equipped with  
21 a surveillance device, if a preponderance of evidence indicates  
22 that the respondent is harassing the petitioner by controlling  
23 the flight of the remotely piloted aircraft over the person's  
24 homestead or ~~secure~~ farmstead ~~area~~ in violation of section 715E.3  
25 or 715E.4. The court shall grant the temporary injunction for  
26 not more than two years. The court may continue the injunction  
27 upon a petition filed by the petitioner with the court prior to  
28 the order's expiration.

29 Sec. 7. Section 715E.5, subsection 3, paragraph b,  
30 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (b), Code 2025, is  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (b) The person is an the owner of an ~~agricultural animal~~ a  
33 farm animal, farm equipment, or a farm structure that may be  
34 identified in the recording.

35 Sec. 8. Section 715E.5, subsection 3, paragraph b,

1 subparagraph (2), Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

2 (2) A person cannot claim an ownership interest in a  
3 retrievable image, sound, or data that includes an image, sound,  
4 or data that may identify another individual, ~~an agricultural~~  
5 ~~animal~~ a farm animal, farm equipment, or a farm structure owned  
6 by another person, or land or an improvement owned by another  
7 person, unless that other individual or person consents.

8 Sec. 9. Section 715E.6, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2025, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Sections 715E.3 and 715E.4 do not prohibit a person from  
11 controlling a remotely piloted aircraft flying over a person's  
12 homestead or ~~secure~~ farmstead area if the person controlling the  
13 remotely piloted aircraft is any of the following:

14 Sec. 10. Section 715E.6, subsections 1 and 9, Code 2025, are  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 1. A person who acts with the consent of the owner of the  
17 homestead or ~~secure~~ farmstead area.

18 9. The owner or lessee of the homestead or ~~secure~~ farmstead  
19 area.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 BACKGROUND — GENERAL. 2024 Iowa Acts, chapter 1131,  
24 prohibited the use of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) flying  
25 over certain areas, including a homestead or that part of a  
26 farmstead where agricultural animals are confined and maintained  
27 (Code chapter 715E). An RPA is a self-propelled vehicle used for  
28 navigation and flight, is controlled by the use of an electronic  
29 system, and is not designed to carry a human. A surveillance  
30 device that is part of an RPA refers to a camera or electronic  
31 equipment that transmits or records images, sounds, or data from  
32 a distance. The location that is part of the farmstead confining  
33 and maintaining agricultural animals is referred to as an animal  
34 feeding operation. A secure farmstead area includes an animal  
35 feeding operation and an additional 400 feet of surrounding real

1 property if both are owned or leased by the same person (Code  
2 section 715E.1).

3 BACKGROUND — CRIMINAL OFFENSES. Code chapter 715E created two  
4 related criminal offenses. The first offense, referred to as  
5 intrusion, is committed when a person knowingly controls the  
6 flight of an RPA over either of the two protected locations  
7 (Code section 715E.3). The second offense, referred to as  
8 surveillance, is committed when a person knowingly controls the  
9 flight of an RPA equipped with a surveillance device over either  
10 of those same locations (Code section 715E.4). In each case,  
11 the applicable criminal penalty is enhanced if a person has been  
12 previously convicted of either offense. For a person committing  
13 intrusion, the penalty is a simple misdemeanor subject to an  
14 enhanced penalty of a serious misdemeanor, and for a person  
15 committing surveillance, the penalty is a serious misdemeanor  
16 subject to an enhanced penalty of an aggravated misdemeanor. A  
17 simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than  
18 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855. A  
19 serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than  
20 one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.  
21 An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no  
22 more than two years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than  
23 \$8,540.

24 BACKGROUND — INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. A person who owns or leases  
25 a homestead or secure farmstead area may petition the district  
26 court to obtain an order for a temporary injunction to prevent a  
27 party from using an RPA equipped with a surveillance device (Code  
28 section 715E.5).

29 BACKGROUND — EXCEPTIONS. Code chapter 715E prohibitions do  
30 not apply in a number of circumstances based on consent by  
31 the location's owner, operation of an RPA in compliance with  
32 federal aviation administration regulations, government actions  
33 in compliance with an interstate compact, the use of public  
34 utilities and railroads, an RPA's high-altitude flight, the use  
35 of an RPA to collect scientific information, and a government's

1 exercise of a public road right-of-way.

2 BILL'S PROVISIONS — TERMINOLOGY CHANGE. This bill replaces  
3 the term "secure farmstead area", which is defined to include an  
4 animal feeding operation, with the term "farmstead". The bill  
5 redefines the term "farmstead" to mean at least 40 contiguous  
6 acres of real property used for farming, subject to certain  
7 conditions: (1) the real property is owned or leased by a  
8 farmer, defined as a person actively engaged in farming, (2)  
9 the real property is used for farming, including the production  
10 of a farm commodity, and (3) at least \$15,000 was generated  
11 from the sale of farm commodities produced on the real property  
12 in the last calendar year. The bill establishes a secured  
13 area of 400 feet from certain types of property located on  
14 the farmstead, which includes a farm animal, farm equipment,  
15 or a farm structure. However, the secured area cannot include  
16 any space within the corporate limits of a city. An RPA  
17 is prohibited from entering into this space, subject to the  
18 exceptions that apply to a homestead.

19 BILL'S PROVISIONS — INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The same right to  
20 petition a district court to obtain an order for injunctive  
21 relief that applies under current law to the owner or lessee of  
22 a homestead or a secure farmstead area applies under the bill to  
23 the owner or lessee of a homestead or farmstead.

24 PENALTIES. The same criminal offenses and penalties that  
25 protect a homestead and secure farmstead area under current law  
26 protect a homestead and a secure farmstead, including a secure  
27 animal feeding operation, under the bill, including for intrusion  
28 and surveillance.