

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 127

BY SENATORS CATHEY AND ALLAIN

HUNTERS/HUNTING. Provides for the utilization of unmanned aircraft systems. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:337(G), R.S. 56:116.1(D)(5), and R.S. 56:116.3(I), relative to the use of  
3 unmanned aircraft systems; to provide for exceptions; to provide for observation of  
4 feral hogs; to provide for recovery of wounded deer; to provide for observation of  
5 deer; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:337(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §337. Unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system

9 \* \* \*

10 **G. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to unmanned aircraft**  
11 **systems used with the express permission of the property owner or lessee to**  
12 **assist in observation of feral hogs, as provided in R.S. 56:116.1(D)(5), or**  
13 **tracking and retrieval of mortally wounded deer in the open season or**  
14 **observation of deer in the closed season, as provided in R.S. 56:116.3(I).**

15 Section 2. R.S. 56:116.1(D)(5) and R.S. 56:116.3(I) are hereby enacted to read as  
16 follows:

17 §116.1. Wild birds and wild quadrupeds; times and methods of taking; penalties



Proposed law retains present law and provides that, except in wildlife management areas, UAS's may be used to track and recover mortally wounded deer during or after legal hunting hours in the open season.

Proposed law provides that, except in wildlife management areas, UAS's may be used to observe deer during the closed season. Proposed law prohibits use of unmanned aircraft systems to physically contact or harass deer.

Proposed law requires the UAS operator to obtain the property owner or lessee's permission.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 14:337(G) and R.S. 56:116.1(D)(5) and 116.3(I))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Natural Resources to the original bill

1. Requires the UAS operator to obtain the express permission of the property owner or lessee.