

SENATE BILL 776

By Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 12 and Title 39, Chapter 13, relative to  
unmanned aircraft.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-56-101, is amended by adding the following as new subdivisions:

( ) "Drone" means a powered, aerial vehicle that:

(A) Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;

(B) Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;

(C) Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; and

(D) Can be expendable or recoverable;

( ) "Law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established state agency that is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime, local government code enforcement, and the enforcement of penal, traffic, regulatory, game, or controlled substance laws;

( ) "State agency" means a board, commission, committee, department, office, or another entity of this state;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 56, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding § 39-13-902 or other law, a state agency shall not purchase, acquire, or otherwise use a drone or other covered telecommunications equipment or service, as defined in the federal National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L.

No. 115-232), produced by a manufacturer banned under Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019, as amended.

(b) A contract or agreement for the purchase, acquisition, or use of a drone or other covered telecommunications equipment or service in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 12, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Agency" means a local agency or law enforcement agency;

(2) "Drone" means a powered, aerial vehicle that:

(A) Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;

(B) Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;

(C) Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; and

(D) Can be expendable or recoverable;

(3) "Law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established local agency that is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime, local government code enforcement, and the enforcement of penal, traffic, regulatory, game, or controlled substance laws; and

(4) "Local agency" means a county, municipality, branch or agency of a county or municipality, public utility, utility district, or an entity created pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

(b) Notwithstanding § 39-13-902 or another law, a law enforcement agency or local agency shall not purchase, acquire, or otherwise use a drone or other covered telecommunications equipment or service, as defined in the federal National Defense

Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115-232), produced by a manufacturer banned under Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019, as amended.

(c) A contract or agreement for the purchase, acquisition, or use of a drone or other covered telecommunications equipment or service in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to contracts or agreements entered into, amended, or renewed, on or after that date.