

1 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT AMENDMENTS**

2 2022 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Michael S. Kennedy**

5 House Sponsor: Adam Robertson

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill concerns use and study of an unmanned aircraft system.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

- 12 ▶ defines terms;
- 13 ▶ requires the Department of Transportation to convene a working group to study
- 14 advanced air mobility;
- 15 ▶ provides when an actor may be found guilty of a criminal offense that is committed
- 16 with the aid of an unmanned aircraft system; and
- 17 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 None

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

23 AMENDS:

24 **72-1-216.1**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 358

25 ENACTS:

26 **76-2-106**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **72-1-216.1** is amended to read:

30 **72-1-216.1. State plane operations and advanced air mobility study.**

31 (1) The department shall study:

32 (a) options to improve the operations of the state airplane fleet, including addressing  
33 how to make the state airplane fleet operations more self-reliant through:

34 (i) funding the state's plane operations through plane user fees; and

35 (ii) fleet replacement options; and

36 (b) the development and implementation of advanced air mobility in the state,  
37 including:

38 (i) identifying current state assets and assets in development that support advanced air  
39 mobility;

40 (ii) identifying assets required for full implementation of advanced air mobility;

41 (iii) identifying potential benefits and limitations of implementing advanced air  
42 mobility;

43 (iv) the feasibility of options to progress toward implementing a statewide advanced air  
44 mobility system, including phasing critical elements; and

45 (v) reviewing infrastructure funding mechanisms employed or under consideration by  
46 other states.

47 ~~[(2) The department shall provide a report of the department's findings before  
48 September 30, 2022, to the Transportation Interim Committee.]~~

49 (2) (a) The department shall convene a working group to study current laws in the state  
50 and identify potential changes to state law necessary to facilitate the development of advanced  
51 air mobility operations in the state.

52 (b) A working group under Subsection (2)(a) may include:

53 (i) one or more interested members of the Legislature;

54 (ii) one or more representatives of the advanced air mobility industry;

55 (iii) the executive director of the department or the executive director's designee;

56 (iv) the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or the commissioner's  
57 designee;

58 (v) a representative of the Utah League of Cities and Towns;

59 (vi) a representative of the Utah Association of Counties;

60 (vii) a representative of the business community; and

61 (viii) a representative of a state institution of higher education.

62 (3) On or before September 30, 2022, the department shall provide a report to the  
63 Transportation Interim Committee of the department's findings from the study described in  
64 Subsection (1) and the working group described in Subsection (2).

65 Section 2. Section **76-2-106** is enacted to read:

66 **76-2-106. Commission of offense with aid of unmanned aircraft system.**

67 (1) As used in this section:

68 (a) "Unmanned aircraft" means the same as that term is defined in Section [72-14-102](#).

69 (b) "Unmanned aircraft system" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
70 [72-14-102](#).

71 (2) An actor may be found guilty of an offense if:

72 (a) the actor commits the offense with the aid of an unmanned aircraft; and

73 (b) the unmanned aircraft system for the unmanned aircraft is under the actor's control  
74 at the time of the offense.