

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 136 – AN ACT RELATING TO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS; AND RELATING TO IMAGES CAPTURED BY AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.

The Legislative Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) was formed under HCR 6 to review regulations and guidance regarding UAS and provide recommendations for a comprehensive state policy for unmanned aircraft that protects privacy and allows the use of UAS for public and private applications.

The Task Force reviewed multiple potential UAS scenarios focusing on privacy issues, economic development, public safety, anticipated mission types, and safety. The Task Force evaluated existing privacy laws for Alaska to avoid recommending duplicative law, and stressed the importance of public education to address concerns regarding UAS use in the state. The Task Force recognized the beneficial uses of UAS for life-saving, cost-saving and beneficial applications.

It was clear in the Task Force meetings that the stakeholders, industry and the public wanted a single point of contact for monitoring the status of this emerging technology and the resulting UAS industry growing in Alaska. The single point of contact would consider comments and concerns, help with public education, and direct specific inquiries to the correct entity that may be conducting UAS missions.

SB 136 also comes with a companion resolution to extend the duties and length of the Task Force for an additional three years to coincide with the FAA test site period for UAS in Alaska. The resolution will allow a continued and necessary review of the use of UAS in Alaska and further consider state laws to protect privacy, educate the public and be a central point of contact as we monitor this new industry.