

**HOUSE BILL NO. 255**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, HIGGINS, THOMPSON, AND PRUITT, Isaacson, Millett

Introduced: 1/21/14

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to unmanned aircraft systems; and relating to images captured by an  
2 unmanned aircraft system."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 14.40.082. Unmanned aircraft system training.** The University of  
6 Alaska may establish a training program in the operation of unmanned aircraft  
7 systems.

8 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 18.65 is amended by adding new sections to read:

9 **Article 13. Law Enforcement Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.**

10 **Sec. 18.65.900. Use of unmanned aircraft systems.** Except as provided in  
11 AS 18.65.900 - 18.65.909, a law enforcement agency may not use an unmanned  
12 aircraft system.

13 **Sec. 18.65.901. Operational requirements for unmanned aircraft systems.**

14 (a) A law enforcement agency shall adopt procedures for the use of unmanned aircraft

1 systems. The procedures adopted under this section must require, at a minimum, that  
2 the law enforcement agency

3 (1) obtain any authorization, permit, or certificate required by the  
4 Federal Aviation Administration to operate the unmanned aircraft system;

5 (2) allow the unmanned aircraft system to be operated only by  
6 unmanned aircraft system pilots and crew members who have been trained and  
7 certified in the operation of the unmanned aircraft system and only under the  
8 supervision of officials trained in the policies and procedures governing the use of the  
9 unmanned aircraft system;

10 (3) provide that the flight of an unmanned aircraft system be approved  
11 by the chief administrative officer of the law enforcement agency or the officer's  
12 designee;

13 (4) ensure that the flight of an unmanned aircraft system be for a  
14 public purpose;

15 (5) maintain a record of each flight, including the time, date, and  
16 purpose of the flight, and the identity of the authorizing official;

17 (6) establish an auditable flight record system, including the  
18 documentation of a change in a flight time record;

19 (7) establish a method for notifying the public of the operation of an  
20 unmanned aircraft system, unless notifying the public would endanger the safety of a  
21 person;

22 (8) provide for community involvement in the development of the  
23 policies required in this section, including the consideration of public comment.

24 (b) In adopting procedures under (a) of this section, a law enforcement agency  
25 shall adopt the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Recommended  
26 Guidelines for the Use of Unmanned Aircraft.

27 (c) In this section, "chief administrative officer" has the meaning given in  
28 AS 18.65.290.

29 **Sec. 18.65.902. Use of an unmanned aircraft system in a criminal**  
30 **investigation.** A law enforcement agency may use an unmanned aircraft system to  
31 gather evidence in a criminal investigation

1 (1) under the express terms of a search warrant issued under AS 12.35;  
2 or

3 (2) in accordance with a judicially recognized exception to the warrant  
4 requirement in AS 12.35.

5 **Sec. 18.65.903. Retention of images.** (a) A law enforcement agency may not  
6 retain images captured by an unmanned aircraft system unless retention of the image is  
7 required

8 (1) as part of an investigation or prosecution;

9 (2) for training purposes; or

10 (3) by federal or state law or by municipal ordinance.

11 (b) Images retained under this section are subject to AS 40.25.100 - 40.25.295  
12 and the exceptions to disclosure under AS 40.25.100 - 40.25.295.

13 **Sec. 18.65.909. Definitions.** In AS 18.65.900 - 18.65.909,

14 (1) "law enforcement agency" has the meaning given in AS 12.36.090;

15 (2) "unmanned aircraft system" means an unmanned aircraft that is  
16 operated without direct human intervention from inside or on the aircraft and includes  
17 the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry,  
18 communications, and navigation equipment necessary to operate the unmanned  
19 aircraft;

20 (3) "unmanned aircraft system crew member" means a person other  
21 than an unmanned aircraft system pilot who is assigned to duties related to an  
22 unmanned aircraft system during flight;

23 (4) "unmanned aircraft system pilot" means a person exercising control  
24 over an unmanned aircraft system during flight.

25 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 29.10.200 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

26 (63) AS 29.35.146 (images captured by unmanned aircraft systems).

27 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 29.35 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read:

28 **Sec. 29.35.146. Regulation of unmanned aircraft systems.** (a) A  
29 municipality may not adopt an ordinance that permits the release of images captured  
30 by an unmanned aircraft system in a manner inconsistent with AS 18.65.903.

31 (b) In this section, "unmanned aircraft system" has the meaning given in

1 AS 18.65.909.