

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5442

To consolidate within the Department of Defense all executive authority regarding the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Ms. LEE of California (for herself and Mr. BURGESS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To consolidate within the Department of Defense all executive authority regarding the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Drone Reform Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY**

6 **OVER USE OF ARMED UNMANNED AERIAL VE-**
7 **HICLES.**

8 (a) DOD EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.—

1 (1) PROHIBITION.—No operation involving the
2 use of an armed unmanned aerial vehicle shall be
3 carried out under the authority of a department or
4 agency of the Federal Government other than the
5 Department of Defense.

6 (2) USE BY MILITARY PERSONNEL.—Only uni-
7 formed members of the United States Armed Forces
8 may—

9 (A) operate, or order the operation of, an
10 armed unmanned aerial vehicle; or

11 (B) operate or fire, or order the operation
12 or firing of, any weapon or other munition car-
13 ried on an armed unmanned aerial vehicle.

14 (3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The operation and use
15 of an armed unmanned aerial vehicle shall be subject
16 to the requirements of title 10 of the United States
17 Code.

18 (b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion shall be construed—

20 (1) to limit or expand any authority of any
21 component of the Federal Government to provide ad-
22 vice, including intelligence, to the Department of De-
23 fense in support of actions described in paragraphs
24 (1) and (2) of subsection (a); or

1 (2) to create any authority, or expand any ex-
2 isting authority, for the Federal Government to kill
3 any person.

4 (c) UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE.—The term “un-
5 manned aerial vehicle” means an aircraft that is operated
6 without the possibility of direct human intervention from
7 within or on the aircraft. The term includes aircraft re-
8 ferred to as a drone, UAV, unmanned aircraft (UA), un-
9 manned aerial system (UAS), remotely piloted aircraft
10 (RPA), remotely piloted vehicle (RPV), remotely operated
11 aircraft (ROA), and unmanned aerial vehicle system
12 (UAVS).

13 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
14 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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