



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2157

H.P. 1446

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Use of Drones on or over the Premises of Correctional Facilities and Jails

Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §761** is enacted to read:

3 **§761. Unauthorized use of drone on or over premises of correctional facility or jail**

4 1. A person is guilty of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a
5 correctional facility or jail if the person uses a drone to convey or attempt to convey prison
6 contraband in violation of section 757.

7 2. A person is guilty of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a
8 correctional facility or jail if the person in fact flies a drone over the premises of a
9 correctional facility or jail at or below a height of 400 feet above the ground, lands a drone
10 on the premises or flies a drone from the premises.

11 3. This section does not apply to:

12 A. A law enforcement officer, a corrections officer or a corrections supervisor engaged
13 in the performance of the law enforcement officer's, corrections officer's or corrections
14 supervisor's public duty; or

15 B. Another person acting in the course and scope of employment, as approved by the
16 chief administrative officer of the correctional facility or the jail administrator.

17 4. It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that the person holds a valid
18 license to operate a drone issued by the United States Department of Transportation,
19 Federal Aviation Administration or is otherwise permitted to operate a drone pursuant to
20 regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration.

21 5. Unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail
22 is a Class C crime.

23 6. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings.

24 A. "Correctional facility" has the same meaning as in Title 34-A, section 1001,
25 subsection 6.

26 B. "Drone" means an aircraft or aircraft system operated without a physical human
27 presence within or on the aircraft and includes, but is not limited to, an unmanned
28 aircraft system, unmanned aerial vehicle, remotely piloted aircraft system or micro air
29 vehicle.

30 C. "Jail" means a county or regional jail.

31 D. "Micro air vehicle" means a drone that weighs less than one kilogram.

32 E. "Premises" includes, but is not limited to, lands, ways and any buildings or
33 structures on those lands or ways.

34 F. "Remote pilot station" means equipment such as controls, displays or a cockpit
35 located separately from a drone and used by an operator to fly a drone.

36 G. "Remotely piloted aircraft system" means a system that includes a drone, a remote
37 pilot station and equipment for communication between the remote pilot station and
38 the drone.

H. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means a powered aircraft that flies without a human pilot on board that is controlled either remotely from the ground or autonomously through a preprogrammed flight plan.

I. "Unmanned aircraft system" means a system that includes a drone, a remote control station and equipment for communication between the remote control station and the drone.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Class C crime of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail, with certain exceptions.