

S 159

A bill to improve the operation of the Department of Homeland Security's Unmanned Aircraft System Program.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jan 13, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Jan 13, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/159>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Jan 13, 2015
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jan 13, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 13, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fully utilize surveillance and detection capabilities developed or used by federal agencies to enhance the functioning and operational capability to conduct continuous and integrated manned or unmanned monitoring, sensing, or surveillance of 100% of the southern border of the United States.

Prohibits DHS from procuring any additional unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) until it provides written certification that it successfully operated its current UAS fleet at least 23,000 hours during the preceding calendar year. Excepts the procurement of unmanned aircraft that do not weigh more than 150 pounds.

Requires DHS to: (1) use the best available radar and surveillance technology to increase awareness of illegal border activities along the southern border and to identify gaps in surveillance capabilities; and (2) consult with the Department of Defense to identify best practices that could be used by DHS to improve the security of the southern border.

Directs DHS to report biannually on:

- the number of UAS flight hours required, planned, and flown to provide persistent surveillance along the southern border and the number of flight hours cancelled;
- the number of UAS flight hours planned in support of any federal or state agency;
- performance measures regarding the number of hours flown, subjects detected, and apprehensions and illicit drug seizures assisted; and
- the accumulated cost associated with the UAS Program.

Terminates this Act five years after its enactment.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 13, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 13, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.