

S 2670

Micro Drone Safety and Innovation Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 10, 2016

Current Status: Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. (Jul 14, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2670>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 10, 2016
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jul 14, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Micro Drone Safety and Innovation Act of 2016

This bill amends the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to make a special rule for any micro unmanned aircraft system whose aircraft component, including payload, weighs at most 4.4 pounds (micro drone).

A micro drone and its operator shall qualify for exemptions from certain airman certification, airworthiness, and operational regulations if the system is operated:

- at an altitude under 400 feet above ground level,
- at an airspeed under 40 knots,
- within the operator's visual line of sight,
- between sunrise and sunset, and
- at least five statute miles from the geographic center of an airport that either has an operational air traffic control tower or is denoted on a current aeronautical chart published by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

A micro drone may also be operated within five statute miles of such an airport if, beforehand, the operator notifies the airport operator and receives approval from the air traffic control tower, if the airport has one.

Under the exemptions of this bill, any person may operate a micro drone without being required to:

- pass any aeronautical knowledge test,
- meet any age or experience requirement, or
- obtain an airman certificate or medical certificate.

In an alternative to the requirements of this bill, a micro drone may be operated pursuant to any form of FAA-prescribed authorization, operational rules, or exemptions pertaining to unmanned aircraft systems; but both the aircraft and its operator shall remain exempt from any requirement for an airman certificate or medical certificate.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 14, 2016:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held.
- **Mar 10, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 10, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.