HR 5879

Drone Research and Innovation for Law Enforcement Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works
Introduced: Oct 3, 2023
Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.
Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. (Oct 3, 2023)
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Sponsor

Name: Rep. Nehls, Troy E. [R-TX-22]
Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (26 total)

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Rep. Fry, Russell [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Nov 3, 2023
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Rep. Van Orden, Derrick [R-WI-3]	R · WI		Nov 30, 2023
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Rep. Flood, Mike [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. Moore, Barry [R-AL-2]	R · AL		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-1]	R · MT		Jan 31, 2024
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Ellzey, Jake [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Van Duyne, Beth [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Maloy, Celeste [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Feb 29, 2024
Rep. Boebert, Lauren [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Mar 6, 2024
Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Apr 9, 2024
Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Apr 29, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 3, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Oct 3, 2023)

Drone Research and Innovation for Law Enforcement Act of 2023

This bill directs the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to study, and create an approval process for, nonlethal de-escalation unmanned aircraft (i.e., drones). Under the bill, *nonlethal de-escalation unmanned aircraft* means an unmanned aircraft that is equipped with one or more nonlethal weapons or devices and is used by law enforcement personnel in scenarios (1) that present significant risk to human life, and (2) in which the suspected criminal is in a position to potentially escalate the situation and expose human life to a high level of risk.

Specifically, the FAA must initiate a pilot research program to study the potential use of nonlethal de-escalation unmanned aircraft by law enforcement agencies. As part of the study, the FAA must enter into interagency agreements with various federal, state, and local agencies.

The FAA must submit a report on the results of the research program to Congress. The report must include a plan outlining a proposed FAA application process for law enforcement to seek permission to operate nonlethal de-escalation unmanned aircraft.

Within 90 days of submitting the report, the FAA must initiate rulemaking to create a process through which the FAA may provide approval to operate these unmanned aircraft.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 3, 2023:** Introduced in House
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