

2013 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

13105257D

SENATE BILL NO. 1331

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice
on February 18, 2013)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator McEachin)

A BILL to place a moratorium on the use of unmanned aircraft systems.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. *No state or local agency or organization having jurisdiction over criminal law enforcement or regulatory violations, including but not limited to the Department of State Police, and no department of law enforcement as defined in § 15.2-836 of the Code of Virginia of any county, city, or town shall utilize an unmanned aircraft system before July 1, 2015.*

Notwithstanding the prohibition in this section, an unmanned aircraft system may be deployed before July 1, 2015, when an Amber Alert is activated pursuant to § 52-34.3 of the Code of Virginia, when a Senior Alert is activated pursuant to § 52-34.6 of the Code of Virginia, when a Blue Alert is activated pursuant to § 52-34.9 of the Code of Virginia, or for the purpose of a search and rescue operation. In no case may a weaponized unmanned aircraft system be deployed or its use facilitated by a state or local agency in Virginia.

The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to the Virginia National Guard while utilizing unmanned aircraft systems during training required to maintain readiness for its federal mission, when facilitating training for other United States Department of Defense units, or when such systems are utilized to support the Commonwealth for purposes other than law enforcement, including damage assessment, traffic assessment, flood stages, and wildfire assessment.

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