

SENATE FILE NO. SF0079

Vertical takeoff and landing aircraft-regulation.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Dockstader, Bebout and Von Flatern
and Representative(s) Burkhardt, Harshman,
Miller and Simpson

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to aeronautics; authorizing the Wyoming
2 aeronautics commission to promulgate rules regarding
3 vertical takeoff and landing aircraft; amending provisions
4 related to unmanned aircraft to include to vertical takeoff
5 and landing aircraft; authorizing the Wyoming department of
6 transportation to seek federal and other funding assistance
7 related to vertical takeoff and landing aircraft; requiring
8 coordination of marketing and advocacy efforts for
9 specified purposes related to vertical takeoff and landing
10 aircraft; and providing for an effective date.

11

12 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

13

14 **Section 1.** W.S. 10-1-101(a) by creating a new
15 paragraph (xi) and by renumbering (xi) as (xii),

1 10-3-201(e) and (j), 10-3-301 and 10-4-303(a)(intro), (b)
2 and (c) are amended to read:

3
4 **10-1-101. Definitions.**

5
6 (a) As used in this act:

7
8 (xi) "Vertical takeoff and landing aircraft"
9 means a piloted or autonomous aircraft or unmanned aircraft
10 capable of vertical takeoff, vertical landing and transfer
11 to forward motion;

12
13 ~~(xi)~~ (xii) "This act" means W.S. 10-1-101 through
14 10-6-104.

15
16 **10-3-201. Powers and duties generally.**

17
18 (e) The commission shall assist communities in
19 coordinating efforts, facilitating, recruiting and
20 attracting and promoting the development, improvement and
21 retention of commercial air service and accommodating
22 military air service in the state. The assistance may
23 include studying airline, aircraft, ~~and~~ unmanned aircraft

1 and vertical takeoff and landing aircraft profitability,
2 route analysis, air fare monitoring and recommendations for
3 legislative changes to enhance air services in the state.
4

5 (j) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules
6 governing where unmanned aircraft or vertical takeoff and
7 landing aircraft may take off and land, giving
8 consideration to public health and safety, aesthetics and
9 the general welfare. Unless otherwise prohibited by or
10 previously provided for in federal law, the commission may
11 also promulgate reasonable rules governing the operation of
12 unmanned aircraft or vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.
13 In promulgating any rules ~~governing unmanned aircraft~~ under
14 this subsection, the commission shall coordinate with the
15 appropriate industry in Wyoming and political subdivisions
16 of the state. The commission shall not have the power to
17 regulate unmanned aircraft or vertical takeoff and landing
18 aircraft operation in navigable airspace.
19

20 **10-3-301. Conducting investigations and hearings;**
21 **accidents to be reported.**
22

1 The commission may conduct investigations, inquiries and
2 hearings concerning the laws of this state relating to
3 aeronautics and accidents or injuries incident to the
4 operation of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft or
5 vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, occurring within
6 this state. Members of the commission may administer oaths
7 and affirmations, certify to all official acts, issue
8 subpoenas and compel the attendance and testimony of
9 witnesses and the production of papers, books and
10 documents. All accidents or injuries incident to the
11 operation of aircraft occurring within this state shall be
12 immediately reported to the commission.

13

14 **10-4-303. Low or dangerous flight; landing on land or**
15 **water of another.**

16

17 (a) Flight of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft
18 or vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, over the lands
19 and waters of this state is lawful unless it is:

20

21 (b) The landing of an aircraft, including an unmanned
22 aircraft or vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, on the
23 lands or waters of another, without his consent, is

1 unlawful, except in the case of a forced landing. For
2 damages caused by a forced landing, however, the owner,
3 operator or lessee of the aircraft or the airman shall be
4 liable for actual damage caused by the forced landing.

5
6 (c) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this
7 section, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
8 prevent an operator or pilot from operating an aircraft,
9 including an unmanned aircraft or vertical takeoff and
10 landing aircraft, over his own property.

11
12 **Section 2.** The Wyoming department of transportation
13 may seek any federal or other funding assistance related to
14 vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.

15
16 **Section 3.** The Wyoming aeronautics commission shall
17 coordinate with the Wyoming business council and political
18 subdivisions of the state to market and advocate for
19 vertical takeoff and landing aircraft innovation,
20 technology development, testing, manufacturing and
21 production in this state.

1 **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

5

6

(END)