

Legislative Analysis



TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER INSPECTIONS BY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (DRONES)

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5732 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Nate Shannon
Committee: Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure
Complete to 6-10-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5732 would amend the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act to allow a state department, agency, board, or commission, or a person under contract with or acting at the direction or on behalf of any of those entities, to use an unmanned aircraft system (i.e., a drone) to inspect a telecommunications tower facility, grounds, antennae, a shelter site, or similar infrastructure.

The act generally prohibits the state entities described above from using an unmanned aircraft system to surveil, inspect, or collect evidence or information about a facility that is subject to a permit, license, or order issued by or a decree or other requirement governed by that entity, with certain exceptions. The bill would add inspecting a telecommunications tower facility, grounds, antennae, a shelter site, or similar infrastructure to those exceptions.

As with similar exceptions under the act, the unmanned aircraft system would have to be clearly marked as a state-owned or state-operated aircraft. Any data, including videos, photographic images, or geospatial data, collected by the operation of an unmanned aircraft system concerning the facility would have to be furnished promptly to the facility's owner or operator upon request and would be rebuttably presumed to be not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

MCL 259.307

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill is permissive and does not mandate actions of the state or local units of government. The bill does not appear to have a direct fiscal impact on the state, specifically the Michigan Department of Transportation, or local units of government.

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