

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3669

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for operating drones in certain locations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for operating drones in certain locations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safety for Airports  
5 and Firefighters by Ensuring Drones Refrain from Ob-  
6 structing Necessary Equipment Act of 2015” or the  
7 “SAFE DRONE Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR OPERATING DRONES IN**  
2 **CERTAIN LOCATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 18, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 40A. Operating drones in certain locations**

7 “(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly operates a  
8 drone in a restricted area shall be fined under this title  
9 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

10 “(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to  
11 operations conducted for purposes of firefighting or emer-  
12 gency response by a Federal, State, or local unit of govern-  
13 ment (including any individual conducting such operations  
14 pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into  
15 with the unit).

16 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

17 “(1) the term ‘drone’ means an unmanned air-  
18 craft, as that term is defined in section 331 of the  
19 FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49  
20 U.S.C. 40101 note);

21 “(2) the term ‘restricted area’ means—

22 “(A) within a 2-mile radius of a small hub  
23 airport, medium hub airport, or large hub air-  
24 port;

25 “(B) within 2 miles of the outermost pe-  
26 rimeter of an ongoing firefighting operation in-

1           volving the Department of Agriculture or the  
2           Department of the Interior; or

3                   “(C) in an area that is subject to a tem-  
4           porary flight restriction issued by the Adminis-  
5           trator of the Federal Aviation Administration;  
6           and

7                   “(3) the terms ‘small hub airport’, ‘medium  
8           hub airport’, and ‘large hub airport’ have the mean-  
9           ings given those terms in section 47102 of title 49.”.

10          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
11 at the beginning of chapter 2 of title 18, United States  
12 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new  
13 item:

“40A. Operating drones in certain locations.”.

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