

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2157

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2015

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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 imprisoned not more than 1 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’ has the meaning given the
18 term ‘unmanned aircraft’ in section 331 of the FAA
19 Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C.
20 40101 note);

21 “(2) the terms ‘large hub airport’, ‘medium hub
22 airport’, and ‘small hub airport’ have the meanings
23 given those terms in section 47102 of title 49; and

24 “(3) the term ‘restricted area’ means—

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

4 “(B) within 2 miles of the outermost pe-
5 rimeter of an ongoing firefighting operation in-
6 volving the Department of Agriculture or the
7 Department of the Interior; or

8 “(C) in an area that is subject to a tem-
9 porary flight restriction issued by the Adminis-
10 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration.”.

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

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

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