

SENATE FILE NO. SF0079

Vertical takeoff and landing aircraft-regulation.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Dockstader, Bebout and Von Flatern  
and Representative(s) Burkhart, 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.**

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6 (a) As used in this act:

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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, excluding rotorcraft;

12

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

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

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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.

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

22

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.

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(END)