

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1504

5 By: Representative S. Meeks
6 By: Senator M. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF MANUFACTURING,
10 MODIFYING, SELLING, TRANSFERRING, OR OPERATING A
11 ROBOTIC DEVICE OR AN UNCREWED AIRCRAFT THAT IS
12 EQUIPPED OR MOUNTED WITH A WEAPON; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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17 TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF MANUFACTURING,
18 MODIFYING, SELLING, TRANSFERRING, OR
19 OPERATING A ROBOTIC DEVICE OR AN
20 UNCREWED AIRCRAFT THAT IS EQUIPPED OR
21 MOUNTED WITH A WEAPON.
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Subtitle 6, is amended to add an
26 additional chapter to read as follows:

27 Chapter 80 – Robotic Devices and Uncrewed Aircraft
28

29 5-80-101. Definitions.

30 As used in this chapter:

31 (1) "Robotic device" means a mechanical device that:

32 (A) Is capable of locomotion, navigation, or movement on
33 the ground; and

34 (B) Operates at a distance from its operator based on
35 commands or in response to sensor data or a combination of commands and
36 response to sensor data;



1 (2) "Uncrewed aircraft" means an aircraft, as defined by § 5-75-
2 101, that is operated without the possibility of direct human operation or
3 intervention from within or on the aircraft; and

4 (3) "Weapon" means a device that is designed to threaten or
5 cause death, incapacitation, or physical injury to a person, including
6 without limitation:

7 (A) A stun gun;

8 (B) A firearm;

9 (C) A machine gun;

10 (D) A chemical agent or irritant;

11 (E) A kinetic impact projectile;

12 (F) A weaponized laser; and

13 (G) An explosive device.

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15 5-80-102. Unlawful acts.

16 (a) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to manufacture, modify,
17 sell, transfer, or operate a robotic device equipped or mounted with a weapon
18 or an uncrewed aircraft equipped or mounted with a weapon.

19 (b) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to use a robotic device or
20 an uncrewed aircraft to:

21 (1) Commit the offense of terroristic threatening under § 5-13-
22 301 et seq.; or

23 (2) Commit the offense of harassment under § 5-71-208.

24 (c) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to use a robotic device or
25 an uncrewed aircraft to physically restrain or to attempt to physically
26 restrain a human being.

27 (d) A person who commits an offense under this section is guilty of a
28 violation and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum of not less than five
29 thousand dollars (\$5,000) nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars
30 (\$25,000).

31 (e) A person who knowingly uses or directs a robotic device equipped
32 or mounted with a weapon or an uncrewed aircraft equipped or mounted with a
33 weapon to commit or facilitate the commission of another offense shall be
34 held criminally liable for that offense as if the person had personally
35 committed the act.

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1 5-80-103. Exceptions.

2 (a) This chapter shall not apply to:

3 (1) A defense industrial company that is under contract with the
4 United States Department of Defense with respect to robotic devices and
5 uncrewed aircraft being developed or produced under that contract;

6 (2) A defense industrial company that obtains a waiver from the
7 Attorney General regarding robotic devices and uncrewed aircraft; or

8 (3) A robotics company that obtains a waiver from the Attorney
9 General for the purpose of testing anti-weaponization technologies with
10 respect to robotic devices and uncrewed aircraft.

11 (b) It shall not be a violation of this chapter for an individual
12 employed by the United States Government, the state, or an accredited bomb
13 squad who is acting in the public performance of his or her duties to operate
14 a robotic device that is equipped or mounted with a weapon or an uncrewed
15 aircraft that is equipped or mounted with a weapon if the individual employed
16 by the United States Government, the state, or an accredited bomb squad is
17 doing so for the purpose of:

18 (1) Disposing of explosives or suspected explosives;

19 (2) Developing, evaluating, testing, providing education on, or
20 providing training on a robotic device or an uncrewed aircraft for the
21 purpose of disposing of explosives or suspected explosives; or

22 (3) Destroying property in cases where there is an imminent,
23 deadly threat to human life.

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25 5-80-104. Law enforcement – Duties.

26 A law enforcement agency shall obtain a warrant or other legally
27 required judicial authorization before the law enforcement agency may:

28 (1) Deploy a robotic device onto private property in a situation
29 in which a warrant or other legally required judicial authorization would be
30 required if the entry onto the private property were made by a human law
31 enforcement officer; or

32 (2) Deploy a robotic device to conduct surveillance or location
33 tracking in a situation in which a warrant or other legally required judicial
34 authorization would be required if the surveillance or location tracking were
35 conducted by a human law enforcement officer or a form of technology.

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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 118 is amended to add an
2 additional section to read as follows:

3 16-118-119. Civil action for unlawful use of robotic device or
4 uncrewed aircraft.

5 (a) The Attorney General may bring an action against a person who is
6 suspected of violating this chapter.

7 (b)(1) A person whose property or person is injured by reason of a
8 violation of § 5-80-101 et seq. or rules promulgated pursuant to § 5-80-101
9 et seq. may sue for the injury and recover for any damages sustained and the
10 costs of the suit.

11 (2) A civil action brought under subdivision (b)(1) of this
12 section shall be brought against the government agency alleged to have
13 violated this chapter, or, in the case of an individual, to the person
14 alleged to have violated this chapter.

15 (3) In a civil action in which the plaintiff prevails, a court
16 may award:

17 (A) Liquidated damages of not less than five hundred
18 dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000);

19 (B) Punitive damages; or

20 (C) Any other relief that the court deems appropriate,
21 including without limitation injunctive relief.

22 (4) In a civil action in which the plaintiff prevails, a court
23 shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

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