

By Senator Gruters

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to drones; amending s. 934.50, F.S.;
3 expanding the authorized uses of drones by law
4 enforcement agencies and other specified entities for
5 specified purposes; providing an effective date.

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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Present paragraphs (d) through (j) of subsection
10 (4) of section 934.50, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
11 paragraphs (i) through (o), respectively, paragraph (a) of
12 subsection (3) of that section is amended, and new paragraphs
13 (d) through (h) are added to subsection (4) of that section, to
14 read:

15 934.50 Searches and seizure using a drone.—

16 (3) PROHIBITED USE OF DRONES.—

17 (a) A law enforcement agency may not use a drone to gather
18 evidence or other information, except as provided in subsection
19 (4).

20 (4) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not prohibit the use of a
21 drone:

22 (d) To provide a law enforcement agency with an aerial
23 perspective of a crowd of 50 people or more.

24 (e) To assist a law enforcement agency with traffic
25 management; however, a law enforcement agency acting under this
26 paragraph may not issue a traffic infraction citation based on
27 images or video captured by a drone.

28 (f) To facilitate a law enforcement agency's collection of
29 evidence at a crime scene or traffic crash scene.

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30 (g) By a state agency or political subdivision for the
31 assessment of damage due to a flood, wildfire, or natural
32 disaster or for vegetation or wildlife management on publicly
33 owned land or water.

34 (h) By certified fire department personnel to perform tasks
35 within the scope and practice authorized under their
36 certifications.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.