

HB 1049

2021

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

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8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Paragraphs (d) through (k) of subsection (4) of  
11           section 934.50, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs  
12           (i) through (p), respectively, paragraph (a) of subsection (3)  
13           is amended, and new paragraphs (d) through (h) are added to  
14           subsection (4) of that section, to 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  
21           a 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.

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  
35 | tasks within the scope and practice authorized under their  
36 | certifications.

37 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.