

The Florida Senate  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

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[2021s00044.hms]

BILL: CS/CS/SB 44

INTRODUCER: Rules Committee; Criminal Justice Committee; and Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Drones

DATE: April 26, 2021

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### **I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment – 892017** (body with title)

### **II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment – 892017** provides additional exceptions in s. 934.50(4), F.S., for law enforcement agencies, fire departments, state agencies, and political subdivisions to use drones. The new exceptions allow law enforcement agencies to use drones to gain an aerial perspective of a crowd of 50 or more persons; assist with traffic management, except that the agency may not issue a traffic infraction based on images or video captured by a drone; and facilitate evidence collection at a crime scene or traffic crash scene. The amendment requires policies and procedures for law enforcement agencies that use a drone to gain an aerial perspective of a crowd of 50 or more people. The amendment authorizes state agencies and political subdivisions to use drones for damage assessment due to a flood, wildfire, or natural disaster, or for vegetation and wildlife management purposes on publicly owned land or water. The amendment also allows certified fire department personnel to use drones to perform tasks within the scope and practice authorized under their certification.

The amendment limits the use of a drone by a state agency or political subdivision for the assessment of damage due to a flood, a wildfire, or any other natural disaster to floods, wildfires, or other natural disasters that are the subject of a state of emergency declared by the state or by a political subdivision, before the expiration of the emergency declaration. The amendment also limits drone purchase, acquisition, or use by governmental agencies to drones manufactured by an approved manufacturer. Governmental agency is defined as any state, county, local, or municipal governmental entity or any unit of government created or established by law that uses a drone for any purpose. The amendment requires the Department of Management Services, in consultation with the state chief information officer, to develop and publish a list of approved manufacturers by January 1, 2022. Upon publication of the list of approved manufacturers, a governmental agency may only purchase or acquire a drone from an approved manufacturer. The department will adopt rules identifying the requirements of a comprehensive plan governmental agencies must follow for discontinuing the use of drones not produced by an approved manufacturer by July 1, 2022. By January 1, 2023, all governmental agencies must discontinue the use of drones not produced by an approved manufacturer. The department will establish by

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rule, consistent with federal guidance on drone security, minimum security requirements for data collected, transmitted, or stored by a governmental agency drone.