

The Florida Senate  
**HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY**

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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[2021s00518.hms]

BILL: SB 518  
INTRODUCER: Senator Diaz  
SUBJECT: Drones  
DATE: April 27, 2021

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**I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment – 115797** (body with title)

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

**House Amendment – 115797** limits one of the bill’s exceptions to this state’s ban on potentially intrusive drone use, and it requires governmental entities to phase out their use of unapproved drones.

The bill creates a new exception to this state’s ban on potentially intrusive drone use. This exception applies to drone use by a state agency or political subdivision to assess damage from a natural disaster. The amendment specifies that this exception only applies if the natural disaster is the subject of an ongoing declared state of emergency.

The amendment also requires the Department of Management Services to publish a list of approved drone manufacturers by January 1, 2022. Finally, the amendment requires state, county, local, and municipal governmental agencies to cease the use of drones made by all other manufacturers by January 1, 2023.