

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to unmanned aircraft and unmanned  
 3 aircraft systems; amending s. 330.41, F.S.; increasing  
 4 the criminal penalty for certain prohibited actions  
 5 relating to drones; amending s. 330.411, F.S.;  
 6 prohibiting certain actions relating to unmanned  
 7 aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems; providing  
 8 criminal penalties; amending s. 934.50, F.S.; revising  
 9 and providing exceptions to certain prohibited actions  
 10 relating to drones; providing an effective date.

11  
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
 14 **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section**  
 15 **330.41, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (a) of that**  
 16 **subsection is republished, to read:**

17 330.41 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act.—

18 (4) PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES.—

19 (a) A person may not knowingly or willfully:

- 20 1. Operate a drone over a critical infrastructure  
 21 facility;  
 22 2. Allow a drone to make contact with a critical  
 23 infrastructure facility, including any person or object on the  
 24 premises of or within the facility; or  
 25 3. Allow a drone to come within a distance of a critical

26 | infrastructure facility that is close enough to interfere with  
 27 | the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility.

28 | (b) A person who violates paragraph (a) commits a felony  
 29 | of the third degree ~~misdemeanor of the second degree~~, punishable  
 30 | as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. ~~A person who commits a~~  
 31 | ~~second or subsequent violation commits a misdemeanor of the~~  
 32 | ~~first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.~~  
 33 | ~~775.083.~~

34 | **Section 2. Section 330.411, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 35 | **to read:**

36 | 330.411 Prohibited possession, alteration, or operation of  
 37 | unmanned aircraft.—

38 | (1) A person may not willfully possess or operate an  
 39 | unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system as defined in s.  
 40 | 330.41(2) ~~s. 330.41~~ with an attached weapon, firearm, explosive,  
 41 | destructive device, or ammunition as defined in s. 790.001.

42 | (2) A person may not willfully alter, manipulate, tamper  
 43 | with, or otherwise change an unmanned aircraft or unmanned  
 44 | aircraft system's hardware or software to counter or bypass any  
 45 | tool, system, or technology intended to detect unmanned aircraft  
 46 | or unmanned aircraft systems in violation of s. 330.41(4) (a).

47 | (3) A person may not willfully possess or operate an  
 48 | unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system that has been  
 49 | altered, manipulated, tampered with, or otherwise changed to  
 50 | counter or bypass any tool, system, or technology intended to

51 detect unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft systems in  
52 violation of s. 330.41(4)(a).

53 (4) A person who violates subsection (1), subsection (2),  
54 or subsection (3) commits a felony of the third degree,  
55 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

56 (5) A person who, without lawful authority, possesses or  
57 operates an unmanned aircraft system carrying a weapon of mass  
58 destruction, a hoax weapon of mass destruction, a biological  
59 agent, or a toxin, as those terms are defined in s. 790.166(1),  
60 commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in  
61 s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

62 **Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section**  
63 **934.50, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (r) is added**  
64 **to that subsection, to read:**

65 934.50 Searches and seizure using a drone.—

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

68 (d) To provide a law enforcement agency with an aerial  
69 perspective of a crowd of 50 people or more or to provide or  
70 maintain the public safety of such crowd, provided that:

71 1. The law enforcement agency that uses the drone to  
72 provide an aerial perspective of a crowd of 50 people or more  
73 must have policies and procedures that include guidelines:

74 a. For the agency's use of a drone.

75 b. For the proper storage, retention, and release of any

76 | images or video captured by the drone.

77 |       c. That address the personal safety and constitutional  
78 | protections of the people being observed.

79 |       2. The head of the law enforcement agency using the drone  
80 | for this purpose must provide written authorization for such use  
81 | and must maintain a copy on file at the agency.

82 |       (r) By a law enforcement agency in the furtherance of  
83 | providing and maintaining the security of an elected official  
84 | pursuant to s. 943.68.

85 |       **Section 4.** This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.