As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session 2025-2026

H. B. No. 597

Representatives Sigrist, Mathews, T.

Cosponsors: Representatives Fischer, Williams, McNally, Brennan, Lett

То	amend section 4561.50 and to enact section	1
	4561.54 of the Revised Code to prohibit the	2
	operation of unmanned aerial vehicles over	3
	schools	_

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4561.50 be amended and section	5
4561.54 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	6
Sec. 4561.50. As used in sections 4561.50 to 4561.53	7
4561.54 of the Revised Code:	8
(A) "Critical facility" means any of the following:	9
(1) A critical infrastructure facility as defined in	10
section 2911.21 of the Revised Code;	11
(2) A commercial distribution center;	12
(3) A federal, state, county, or municipal court;	13
(4) A police station, sheriff's office, state highway	14
patrol station, or premises controlled by the bureau of criminal	15
identification and investigation;	16
(5) A federal, state, county, or municipal jail or prison	17

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or any other facility in which persons are incarcerated;	18	
(6) A federal or state military installation or facility;	19	
(7) A hospital that receives air ambulance services.	20	
(B) "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means a powered, aerial	21	
vehicle to which all of the following apply:		
(1) The vehicle does not carry a human operator and is	23	
operated without the possibility of direct human intervention	24	
from within or on the vehicle;		
(2) The vehicle uses aerodynamic forces to provide lift;	26	
(3) The vehicle can fly autonomously or be piloted	27	
remotely;		
(4) The vehicle is either expendable or recoverable.	29	
"Unmanned aerial vehicle" is commonly referred to as a	30	
drone and does not include a satellite.	31	
(C) "Unmanned aerial vehicle system" means an unmanned	32	
aerial vehicle and associated elements, including communication	33	
links and components that control the unmanned aerial vehicle	34	
and that are required for the remote pilot in command to operate	35	
the vehicle in the air space over this state.		
(D) "Park district" means a park district created in	37	
accordance with Chapter 1545. of the Revised Code.		
(E) "School" means all of the following:	39	
(a) A city, exempted village, local, or joint vocational	40	
<pre>school district;</pre>		
(b) A community school established under Chapter 3314. of	42	
the Revised Code;	43	

(c) A science, technology, engineering, and mathematics	44
school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code;	45
(d) A chartered nonpublic school;	46
(e) An educational service center, on behalf of a school	47
or district.	48
Sec. 4561.54. (A) No person shall knowingly operate an	49
unmanned aerial vehicle over a school.	50
(B) Division (A) of this section does not apply to any of	51
the following:	52
(1) A person under contract with or otherwise acting under	53
the direction of or on behalf of the federal government, the	54
state government, another governmental entity, or a law	55
enforcement agency;	56
(2) An energial of an unmanned sexial medials that is	57
(2) An operator of an unmanned aerial vehicle that is	
being used for a legitimate commercial purpose, provided the	58
operator has obtained all required federal aviation	59
administration authorizations;	60
(3) A person who has the prior written consent of the	61
principal, vice principal, or school resource officer or peace	62
officer assigned to the school;	63
(4) A person who is younger than fourteen years of age.	64
(C) If the principal, the vice principal, or a school	65
resource officer or peace officer assigned to a school witnesses	66
the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle over the school, the	67
principal, vice principal, or resource officer or peace officer	68
may temporarily take possession of the unmanned aerial vehicle	69
for the purpose of providing the unmanned aerial vehicle to a	70
local law enforcement agency as evidence of a violation of	71

division (A) of this section.		
(D)(1) The court may dismiss a charge for a violation of	73	
division (A) of this section if both of the following apply:	74	
(a) The defendant is younger than seventeen years of age	75	
at the time of the offense;		
(b) The judge finds that, in committing the offense, the	77	
defendant did not intend to use the unmanned aerial vehicle to	78	
cause physical harm to another person or damage to school	79	
property.		
(2) Before dismissing a charge under division (D)(1) of	81	
this section, the judge shall issue to the defendant a warning	82	
and refer the defendant to an educational program on unmanned	83	
aerial vehicle safety and aviation laws, the duration and		
contents of which shall be established by the director of		
transportation.		
(E) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is	87	
guilty of a minor misdemeanor on the first offense and a fourth	88	
degree misdemeanor on each subsequent offense.		
Section 2. That existing section 4561.50 of the Revised	90	
Code is hereby repealed.	91	