

Sub. H. B. No. 96
As Passed by the Senate
DOTCD71

_____ moved to amend as follows:

In the table on line 154209, in row C, delete the first "\$500,000" 1
and insert "\$3,000,000" 2

In the table on line 154209, in rows H and M, add \$2,500,000 to 3
fiscal year 2026 4

In line 154216, after "**411.20.**" insert "DRONES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS 5
PILOT PROGRAM 6

Of the foregoing appropriation item 772456, Unmanned Aerial Systems 7
Center, \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 shall be used to fund the Drones 8
for First Responders pilot program, created under Section 755.20 of this 9
act. 10

An amount equal to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of the 11
foregoing appropriation item 772456, Unmanned Aerial Systems Center, at 12
the end of fiscal year 2026 is hereby reappropriated to the same 13
appropriation item in fiscal year 2027." 14

After line 157144, insert: 15

"**Section 755.20.** (A) As used in this section: 16

(1) "First responder" means a law enforcement agency, fire department, or emergency medical services organization. 17
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(2) "Unmanned aerial vehicle system" has the same meaning as in section 4561.50 of the Revised Code. 19
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(B) The Director of Transportation shall establish a Drones for First Responders pilot program to be administered by the Department of Transportation. 21
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(C) The program shall be designed to focus on the following goals: 24
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(1) Acquiring unmanned aerial vehicle system assets for first responders within municipal corporations; 26
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(2) Providing training on the operation of unmanned aerial vehicle systems to the operators of those systems; 28
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(3) Obtaining approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for beyond visual line of sight operations for purposes of the pilot program and the operation of unmanned aerial vehicle systems within the program; 30
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(4) Integrating existing Ohio unmanned aerial vehicle system infrastructure for purposes of conducting beyond visual line of sight operations within the program; 34
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(5) Collecting metrics for cost-benefit analyses related to advanced unmanned aerial vehicle system operations; 37
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(6) Developing a comprehensive approach for community acceptance and integration of unmanned aerial vehicle system operations; 39
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(7) Standardizing an approval process with the Federal Aviation Administration for unmanned aerial vehicle system 42
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operators across the state.

(D) (1) The Director shall establish a process to award money available under the program to the legislative authority of municipal corporations that are willing to participate in the program and meet any guidelines established by the Director for meeting the program's goals. The money awarded shall be allocated towards the purchase of unmanned aerial vehicle systems for first responders within the municipal corporations, for training support, for assisting in navigating federal processes and approvals, and for supporting the integration of statewide operations.

(2) Any unmanned aerial vehicle system purchased through the program shall comply with the federal laws and regulations for such systems, including those in the national security interests of the United States. As such, no system, including any components, services, or maintenance of that system, shall originate from a country or other entity that has been deemed a national security risk by the United States Secretary of State in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 2780 and 50 U.S.C. 4813. Additionally, any system shall comply with the "Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002," 6 U.S.C. 441, et seq., and any applicable conditions of national defense spending.

(E) The Director shall establish any procedures and requirements necessary to administer this section, including award processes, and any conditions for the expenditure of funding awarded under the program.

(F) (1) Not later than two years after the effective date of this section, the Director shall submit a report regarding the program to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of

Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Minority 74
 Leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate, and the 75
 chairs of any committee of the House of Representatives and 76
 Senate related to transportation issues. 77

(2) The report shall detail how funds were expended 78
 through the program, the success of the program in meeting its 79
 goals, the cost-benefit analysis created through the program, 80
 and any recommendations for additional integration of unmanned 81
 aerial vehicle system operations by first responders." 82

The motion was _____ agreed to.

SYNOPSIS 83

Drones for First Responders Pilot Program 84

Section 755.20 85

Restores the provisions from the House-passed version of 86
 the bill that require the following: 87

- The ODOT Director to establish the Drones for First 88
 Responders Pilot Program; 89

- The program to focus on specific goals, including the 90
 acquisition of unmanned aerial vehicle systems for first 91
 responders, training, obtaining necessary FAA approvals, and 92
 integrating state infrastructure; 93

- The ODOT Director to award program funding to 94
 participating municipal corporations for buying unmanned aerial 95
 systems for first responders, training support, assisting in 96

navigating federal processes and approvals, and supporting the	97
integration of statewide operations;	98
- The purchase of any unmanned aerial vehicle system on	99
the system's compliance with federal laws and regulations,	100
including those involving national security and defense	101
spending; and	102
- The ODOT Director to submit a report about the program	103
and any resulting recommendations to the Governor, House and	104
Senate leaders, and the chairs of any House and Senate	105
committees dealing with transportation issues within two years.	106
Department of Transportation	107
Sections 411.10 and 411.20	108
Increases GRF ALI 772456, Unmanned Aerial Systems Center,	109
by \$2,500,000 in FY 2026 and earmarks this increase to be used	110
to fund the Drones for First Responders Pilot Program.	111