

HB 1291-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2816  
09/08

HOUSE BILL            ***1291-FN***

AN ACT                criminalizing the use of small unmanned aircraft systems for the purposes of flying over critical infrastructure and events without authorization.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Wood, Merr. 13; Rep. Tenczar, Hills. 1; Rep. Post, Hills. 42; Rep. Panek, Hills. 1; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE:          Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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ANALYSIS

This bill adds additional prohibited uses to the offense of unlawful operation or use of small unmanned aircraft system.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT criminalizing the use of small unmanned aircraft systems for the purposes of flying over critical infrastructure and events without authorization.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 New Paragraphs; Unlawful Operation or Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft System. Amend  
2 RSA 644:23 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraphs:

3 VIII. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor when the person knowingly uses a small  
4 unmanned aircraft system to operate over any sporting event, concert, automobile race, festival, or  
5 other event where people are gathered, without prior authorization.

6 IX. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor when the person knowingly uses a small  
7 unmanned aircraft system to operate over any critical infrastructure, without prior authorization.  
8 For purposes of the this paragraph, "critical infrastructure" means petroleum refineries, petroleum  
9 storage facilities, chemical storage facilities, chemical manufacturing facilities, fuel storage facilities,  
10 electric substations, power plants, electric generation facilities, military facilities, commercial port  
11 and harbor facilities, rail yard facilities, drinking water treatment or storage facilities, government  
12 buildings, and public safety buildings or facilities.

13 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**HB 1291-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT criminalizing the use of small unmanned aircraft systems for the purposes of flying over critical infrastructure and events without authorization.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	Indeterminable			
<i>Funding Source</i>	General Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

<b>Estimated Political Subdivision Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>County Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>County Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable			

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill adds, deletes, or modifies a criminal penalty, or changes statute to which there is a penalty for violation. Therefore, this bill may have an impact on the judicial and correctional systems, which could affect prosecution, incarceration, probation, and parole costs, for the state, as well as county and local governments. A summary of such costs can be found at: [https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal\\_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf](https://gencourt.state.nh.us/lba/Budget/Fiscal_Notes/JudicialCorrectionalCosts.pdf)

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Judicial Branch, Judicial Council, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association