

HB 1444-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

19Feb2026... 0558h

2026 SESSION

26-2749

09/08

HOUSE BILL

***1444-FN***

AN ACT

relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. Cambrils, Merr. 4; Rep. Freeman, Belk. 8; Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32; Rep. Mandelbaum, Rock. 21; Rep. Notter, Hills. 12; Rep. Creighton, Hills. 30; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18

COMMITTEE:

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the state or local governments from acquiring certain drones or unmanned aircraft systems after January 1, 2028.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

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

1 1 New Chapter; Prohibition on Purchase or Acquisition of Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems.  
2 Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 162-U the following new chapter:

3 CHAPTER 162-V

4 PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE OR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT  
5 SYSTEMS

6 162-V:1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, "unmanned aircraft system" or "drone" means the  
7 same as "aircraft" as defined in RSA 422:3, VI.

8 162-V:2 Prohibition on Purchase or Acquisition of Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems by the  
9 State.

10 I. Effective January 1, 2028, no state agency shall purchase or acquire a drone or unmanned  
11 aircraft system other than those cleared pursuant to RSA 162-V:3.

12 II. To the extent practicable, state agencies shall purchase or acquire only those drones and  
13 unmanned aircraft systems cleared pursuant to RSA 162-V:3 prior to January 1, 2028.

14 III. Effective January 1, 2028, no state funds shall be used to purchase or acquire a drone or  
15 unmanned aircraft system whose purchase would be prohibited by paragraph I.

16 IV. A contract or agreement for the purchase or acquisition of a drone or unmanned aircraft  
17 system in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

18 162-V:3 Prohibition on Purchase or Acquisition of Certain Unmanned Aircraft Systems by  
19 Localities.

20 I. Effective January 1, 2028, no county, city, town or other political subdivision shall  
21 purchase or acquire a drone or unmanned aircraft system that does not meet the requirements of the  
22 National Defense Authorization Act of 2024, Public Law 118-31, or that has been included on the  
23 "covered list" of devices deemed by the Federal Communications Commission to pose an  
24 unacceptable risk to the national security to the United States or to the security and safety of United  
25 States residents.

26 II. A contract or agreement for the purchase or acquisition of a drone or unmanned aircraft  
27 system in violation of this section is void and unenforceable.

28 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1444-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2026-0558h)

AN ACT relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

**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(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable	
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund, Fish and Game Fund, and Highway Fund			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</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>	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable	
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable	

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill defines an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) consistent with the statutory definition of “aircraft” and restricts the purchase or acquisition of certain drones by state and local government entities. Beginning January 1, 2028, state agencies may only acquire drones that meet specified clearance requirements, and state funds may not be used to obtain prohibited systems. Similarly, counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions are prohibited from acquiring drones that do not comply with federal security standards under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024 or that appear on the Federal Communications Commission’s covered list, with any noncompliant purchase agreements deemed unenforceable.

Department of Safety

The Department states this bill will not create an immediate fiscal impact relative to its UAS operations. The fiscal impact after January 1, 2028, is indeterminable, due to factors that include:

- The prevalence of foreign systems that have historically dominated the UAS market.
- The speed of domestic UAS technology advancement and availability.
- The scope of equipment encompassed by future covered/approved lists for purchase.

#### Fish and Game Department

The Department assumes that any drones or UAS purchased on or after January 1, 2028, would be required to comply with the requirements of RSA 162-V. The Department is unable to estimate how many such systems it may need to acquire in the future. Based on current market conditions, compliant drones are estimated to cost between approximately \$5,000 and \$40,000 per unit, depending on factors such as payload capacity, flight duration, and sensor capabilities. In addition, staff training would be required to operate any newly acquired systems, with annual training costs estimated to range from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Accordingly, the Department assumes that the combined annual cost for purchasing compliant drones and providing necessary training could range from more than \$10,000 to up to \$100,000, depending on future operational needs.

#### County and Local Governments

This bill's potential impact on county and local governments, if any, is indeterminable and would vary by agency.

#### **AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety, Fish and Game Department, and New Hampshire Municipal Association