

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0435.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL 17-1070

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wilson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees  
Judiciary

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TO PERFORM  
102 GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY, AND, IN  
103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING THE CENTER OF  
104 EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO  
105 PERFORM A STUDY AND OPERATE A PILOT PROGRAM.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

The bill requires the center of excellence (center) within the division of fire prevention and control within the department of public

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

safety (department) to conduct a study concerning the integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) within state and local government operations that relate to public safety. At a minimum, the study must:

- ! Identify the most feasible and readily available ways to integrate UAS technology within local and state government functions relating to public safety; and
- ! Include consideration of privacy concerns, costs, and timeliness of deployment.

The bill also creates an UAS pilot program (pilot program) to integrate UAS within state and local government operations that relate to public safety. The bill requires the center to operate the pilot program. The division of employment and training within the department of labor and employment may provide resources for training and development of eligible candidates of the pilot program.

On or before September 1, 2018, the center shall submit a report to the wildfire matters review committee and to the judiciary committees of the house of representatives and senate, or to any successor committees. The report must address each item of the center's study, as well as the results of the pilot program.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) In response to recent devastating fires and floods and the  
5 significant expenditures associated with them, the general assembly has  
6 made substantial investments in firefighting and other  
7 emergency-response technology;

8 (b) Although emergency-response operations are steadily  
9 improving, newer technologies, including unmanned aircraft systems  
10 (UAS), are becoming available to further decrease response times and  
11 save lives and property from future catastrophic disasters;

12 (c) Last year, the United States Congress enacted the "Federal  
13 Aviation Administration Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016",  
14 H.R. 636, section 2204 of which requires the administrator of the federal

1 aviation administration to enter into agreements with other federal  
2 agencies to "continue the expeditious authorization of safe unmanned  
3 aircraft system operations in support of firefighting operations"; and

4 (d) A memorandum from President Barack Obama, dated  
5 February 15, 2015, and entitled "Promoting Economic Competitiveness  
6 While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties in  
7 Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems", stated that "UAS  
8 technology continues to improve rapidly, and increasingly UAS are able  
9 to perform a variety of missions with greater operational flexibility and  
10 at a lower cost than comparable manned aircraft. A wide spectrum of  
11 domestic users...are using or expect to use these systems, which may play  
12 a transformative role in fields as diverse as urban infrastructure  
13 management, farming, public safety, coastal security, military training,  
14 search and rescue, and disaster response".

15 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

16 (a) The use of UAS by public safety organizations will create  
17 opportunities and jobs;

18 (b) The state should support the integration of UAS as a matter of  
19 economic development to develop the workforce, especially in rural areas  
20 where disasters sometimes occur;

21 (c) Persons who will find work as UAS operators need  
22 specialized, portable skills that involve public safety objectives as well as  
23 technical, operational concerns; and

24 (d) The promotion of UAS by the general assembly is consistent  
25 with the objectives of the "Colorado Career Advancement Act", part 2 of  
26 article 83 of title 8, Colorado Revised Statutes, and the work force  
27 development program set forth therein.

1 (3) Now, therefore, the general assembly declares that this act is  
2 intended to help make Colorado the nation's center of expertise for the  
3 integration of UAS into firefighting and other emergency operations,  
4 building on the progress already made by the center of excellence for  
5 advanced technology aerial firefighting within the department of public  
6 safety.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1228, **add**  
8 (2.5)(c) and (2)(d) as follows:

9 **24-33.5-1228. Colorado firefighting air corps - creation -**  
10 **powers - aircraft acquisitions required - center of excellence -**  
11 **unmanned aircraft systems study and pilot program - Colorado**  
12 **firefighting air corps fund - creation - report - rules - repeal.**

13 (2.5) (c) (I) IN ADDITION TO PERFORMING THE FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED IN  
14 SUBSECTION (2.5)(b) OF THIS SECTION, ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
15 DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL CONDUCT A  
16 STUDY CONCERNING THE INTEGRATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
17 WITHIN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THAT RELATE TO  
18 PUBLIC SAFETY. AT A MINIMUM, THE STUDY MUST:

19 (A) IDENTIFY THE MOST FEASIBLE AND READILY AVAILABLE WAYS  
20 TO INTEGRATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY WITHIN  
21 LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY,  
22 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIREFIGHTING, SEARCH AND RESCUE,  
23 ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND TACTICAL  
24 OPERATIONS; AND

25 (B) FOR EACH APPLICATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
26 THAT THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IDENTIFIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
27 (2.5)(c)(I)(A) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF PRIVACY

1 CONCERNS, COSTS, AND TIMELINESS OF DEPLOYMENT.

2 (II) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2018, THE CENTER OF  
3 EXCELLENCE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT DESCRIBING THE RESULTS OF ITS  
4 STUDY TO THE WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE CREATED IN  
5 SECTION 2-3-1602 AND THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE, OR TO ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE  
7 REPORT MUST ADDRESS EACH ITEM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2.5)(c)(I)  
8 OF THIS SECTION, AS WELL AS THE RESULTS OF THE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT  
9 SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2.5)(d) OF THIS  
10 SECTION.

11 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (2.5)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
12 SEPTEMBER 30, 2018.

13 (d) (I) IN ADDITION TO PERFORMING THE FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED IN  
14 SUBSECTION (2.5)(b) OF THIS SECTION, ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
15 DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SHALL OPERATE AN  
16 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO WITHIN THIS  
17 SECTION AS THE "PILOT PROGRAM", TO INTEGRATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT  
18 SYSTEMS WITHIN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THAT  
19 RELATE TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

20 (II) AS PART OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
21 SAFETY SHALL DEPLOY AT LEAST ONE TEAM OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT  
22 SYSTEM OPERATORS TO A REGION WITHIN THE STATE THAT HAS BEEN  
23 DESIGNATED BY THE DIVISION AS A FIRE HAZARD. THE PILOT PROGRAM  
24 MUST TRAIN THE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM OPERATORS TO OPERATE  
25 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS RELATING TO  
26 PUBLIC SAFETY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIREFIGHTING, SEARCH  
27 AND RESCUE, ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,

1 AND TACTICAL OPERATIONS. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM OPERATORS  
2 MAY BE COMPENSATED BY THE CENTER DURING THEIR TRAINING.

3 (III) THE DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING WITHIN THE  
4 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT MAY PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR  
5 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OF ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES OF THE PILOT  
6 PROGRAM.

7 (IV) THIS SUBSECTION (2.5)(d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30,  
8 2018.

9 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
11 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.