



ENACTMENT SUMMARY

House Bill 77 **Unmanned aerial vehicle prohibitions** Effective April 9, 2025

On January 8, 2025, Governor DeWine signed into law House Bill 77 (Rep. Willis), which enacts new prohibitions regarding the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs.

The new prohibitions are established in the bill under Title 45 of the Revised Code, but carry criminal penalties. The new prohibitions, and their penalty and/or offense level, are as follows:

- Operating a UAV in a manner that knowingly endangers any person or property, or that purposely disregards the rights or safety of others
 - Fine of \$500 and/or imprisonment of up to six months
- Operating a UAV in a manner that is prohibited by federal law or regulations, except if specifically so authorized by the FAA
 - Subject to federal fines imposed for the specific offense
- Operating a UAV in a manner that disrupts, interrupts, or impairs the operations or activities of law enforcement, fire department, or emergency services personnel
 - If committed recklessly, the offense is an M4
 - If committed knowingly, the offense is an M1 on the first offense, and an F5 on subsequent offenses
- Purposely operating a UAV to photograph, record, or loiter over or near a critical facility (defined in the bill as a critical infrastructure facility, commercial distribution center, courthouse, police station, sheriff's office, OSHP station, premises controlled by BCII, a jail or prison, a military installation, or a hospital that receives air ambulance services) with purpose to further another criminal offense, the elements of which involve causing physical harm to another person or causing another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm
 - An M1 on a first offense and an F5 on subsequent offenses
- Purposely operating a UAV to photograph, record, or loiter over or near a critical facility (see definition in previous bullet point) with purpose to destroy or tamper with the facility
 - The offense is an F3

The bill passed the Ohio House by a vote of 29-2 on April 24, 2024 and the Ohio Senate by a vote of 30-0 on December 18, 2024. The House voted the same day to concur on Senate amendments, by a vote of 85-3. It was signed into law on January 8, 2025 and becomes effective on April 9, 2025.