

**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 129**

A bill to amend 2016 PA 436, entitled  
"Unmanned aircraft systems act,"  
by amending section 5 (MCL 259.305).

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 5. (1) Except as expressly authorized by statute, a  
2 political subdivision shall not enact or enforce an ordinance or  
3 resolution that regulates the ownership or operation of unmanned  
4 aircraft or otherwise engage in the regulation of the ownership or  
5 operation of unmanned aircraft.  
6       (2) Subject to subsection (6), a political subdivision that  
7 prohibits by ordinance, regulation, or resolution the operation of  
8 nonemergency motor vehicles in the political subdivision may enact  
9 and enforce an ordinance, regulation, or resolution that is



1 necessary and proper to prohibit the knowing and intentional  
2 operation of an unmanned aircraft in a manner that interferes with  
3 the safe use of a horse in a commercial activity, including, but  
4 not limited to, the use of horse-drawn carriages, wagons, or carts  
5 or horse-riding activities. An ordinance, regulation, or resolution  
6 adopted under this subsection must allow for the operation of an  
7 unmanned aircraft for any of the following purposes if that  
8 operation does not result in a knowing and intentional interference  
9 with the safe use of a horse in a commercial activity as described  
10 in this subsection and is in compliance with the regulations,  
11 authorizations, or exemptions of the United States Federal Aviation  
12 Administration:

13 (a) Newsgathering by a Federal Communications Commission  
14 licensee.

15 (b) Insurance purposes by an insurer or insurance adjustor.

16 (c) Maintenance performed by a public utility or an  
17 independent transmission company.

18 (3) ~~(2)~~—This act does not prohibit a political subdivision  
19 from promulgating rules, regulations, and ordinances for the use of  
20 unmanned aircraft systems by the political subdivision within the  
21 boundaries of the political subdivision.

22 (4) ~~(3)~~—This act does not affect federal preemption of state  
23 law.

24 (5) ~~(4)~~—If this act conflicts with section 40111c or 40112 of  
25 the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA  
26 451, MCL 324.40111c and 324.40112, those sections control.

27 (6) A political subdivision that prohibits the operation of  
28 nonemergency motor vehicles shall petition the United States  
29 Federal Aviation Administration for designation as a fixed site



1 facility under section 2209 of the FAA extension, safety, and  
2 security act of 2016, Public Law 114-190, not later than 12 months  
3 after the effective date of the rules and regulations promulgated  
4 by the United States Federal Aviation Administration that govern  
5 the processing of petitions for designation as a fixed site  
6 facility. Subsection (2) does not apply after the effective date of  
7 a fixed site designation issued by the United States Federal  
8 Aviation Administration under section 2209 of the FAA extension,  
9 safety, and security act of 2016, Public Law 114-190, that applies  
10 to a political subdivision that prohibits the operation of  
11 nonemergency motor vehicles.

12 (7) As used in this section:

13 (a) "Independent transmission company" means a person,  
14 partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, or  
15 its successors or assigns, engaged in this state in the  
16 transmission of electricity using facilities it owns that have been  
17 divested to the entity by an electric utility that was engaged in  
18 the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in  
19 this state on December 31, 2000, and is independent of an electric  
20 utility or an affiliate of the utility, generating or distributing  
21 electricity to retail customers in this state.

22 (b) "Public utility" means a company or other entity providing  
23 steam, heat, electric, power, gas, water, wastewater,  
24 telecommunications, video, cable, or internet access services.

