

HCS HB 324 -- USE OF AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (Henderson)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions

This bill creates the offense of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft near a correctional center or a mental health hospital, as defined in the bill. A person commits such offense if he or she operates an unmanned aircraft within a vertical distance of 300 feet, extending from ground level, or a horizontal distance to the correctional center or mental health hospital's property line or allows an unmanned aircraft to make contact with a correctional center or mental health hospital, including any person or object on the premises of or within the facility. The bill provides exceptions to the offense.

The offense of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft near a correctional center or mental health hospital is a class A misdemeanor unless the person uses the unmanned aircraft for the purpose of:

- (1) Delivering a weapon or other article that may be used in such a manner to endanger the life of an offender or correctional center or mental health hospital employee, in which case it is a class B felony;
- (2) Facilitating an escape from confinement, in which case it's a class C felony; or
- (3) Delivering a controlled substance, in which case it is a class D felony.

Each correctional center or mental health hospital shall post a sign of the provisions of the offense. The sign must be at least 11" by 14" and be posted in a conspicuous location.