

## Chapter 101

**(Senate Bill 273)**

AN ACT concerning

**State and Local Correctional Facilities – Operation of Unmanned Aircraft  
– Image Recording and Delivery of Contraband**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from intentionally ~~using~~ operating an unmanned aircraft over a correctional facility to record images of ~~a State or local correctional~~ the facility without the authorization of the managing official of the correctional facility or the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services; prohibiting a person from using an unmanned aircraft to deliver contraband to a person detained or confined in a place of confinement; and generally relating to unmanned aircraft and correctional facilities.

BY adding to

Article – Correctional Services  
Section 8–804  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Law  
Section 9–417.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Correctional Services****8–804.**

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “AIRCRAFT” MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED FOR FLIGHT IN THE AIR.

(3) “UNMANNED AIRCRAFT” MEANS AN AIRCRAFT THAT IS OPERATED WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT HUMAN INTERVENTION FROM WITHIN OR ON THE AIRCRAFT.

**(B) A PERSON MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY ~~PHOTOGRAPH OR OTHERWISE RECORD IMAGES OF A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY THROUGH THE USE OF AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT~~ OPERATE AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OVER A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PHOTOGRAPHING OR RECORDING IMAGES OF THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY THROUGH THE USE OF THE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MANAGING OFFICIAL OF THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OR THE SECRETARY.**

**(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.**

**(D) A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SHALL POST SIGNAGE WARNING OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE PROPERTY IN AN AREA VISIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

#### **Article – Criminal Law**

#### **9-417.1.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(2) “AIRCRAFT” MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED FOR FLIGHT IN THE AIR.**

**(3) “UNMANNED AIRCRAFT” MEANS AN AIRCRAFT THAT IS OPERATED WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT HUMAN INTERVENTION FROM WITHIN OR ON THE AIRCRAFT.**

**(B) A PERSON MAY NOT DELIVER ANY CONTRABAND TO A PERSON DETAINED OR CONFINED IN A PLACE OF CONFINEMENT USING AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.**

**(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.**

**(D) A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SHALL POST SIGNAGE WARNING OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE PROPERTY IN AN AREA VISIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2024.**