

# HOUSE BILL 1203

E4

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By: **Delegate Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Workgroup to Study the Integration of Unmanned Aircraft**  
3 **Systems Within State and Local Government Fire Safety Operations and Pilot**  
4 **Program**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Integration of Unmanned  
6 Aircraft Systems Within State and Local Government Fire Safety Operations;  
7 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a  
8 member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the  
9 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to study certain  
10 matters, establish a certain pilot program, and make recommendations regarding  
11 certain matters; providing certain requirements for the pilot program; requiring the  
12 Governor to include a certain appropriation in the annual budget bill for certain  
13 fiscal years; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to  
14 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the  
15 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study the  
16 Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Within State and Local Government Fire  
17 Safety Operations and the pilot program.

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Public Safety

20 Section 1–601 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6. Workgroup to Study the  
21 Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Within State and Local  
22 Government Fire Safety Operations”

23 Annotated Code of Maryland

24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Public Safety**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **SUBTITLE 6. WORKGROUP TO STUDY THE INTEGRATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**  
2 **SYSTEMS WITHIN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE SAFETY OPERATIONS.**

3 **1-601.**

4 **(A) THERE IS A WORKGROUP TO STUDY THE INTEGRATION OF UNMANNED**  
5 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS WITHIN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE SAFETY**  
6 **OPERATIONS.**

7 **(B) THE WORKGROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

8 **(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE**  
9 **PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

10 **(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE**  
11 **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

12 **(3) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL**  
13 **SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

14 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF STATE POLICE, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
15 **DESIGNEE;**

16 **(5) THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, OR THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S**  
17 **DESIGNEE; AND**

18 **(6) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF**  
19 **ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, APPOINTED BY**  
20 **THE GOVERNOR.**

21 **(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE WORKGROUP.**

22 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**  
23 **SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE WORKGROUP.**

24 **(E) A MEMBER OF THE WORKGROUP:**

25 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
26 **WORKGROUP; BUT**

27 **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**  
28 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

1           **(F) THE WORKGROUP SHALL:**

2           **(1) IDENTIFY THE MOST FEASIBLE AND READILY AVAILABLE WAYS TO**  
3 **INTEGRATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY WITHIN LOCAL AND**  
4 **STATE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS RELATING TO:**

5                   **(I) EMERGENCIES INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT PROPERTY LOSS**  
6 **OR POTENTIAL FOR INJURY OR DEATH;**

7                   **(II) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT;**

8                   **(III) FIRE FIGHTING; AND**

9                   **(IV) SEARCH AND RESCUE;**

10           **(2) FOR EACH APPLICATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS THAT**  
11 **THE STUDY IDENTIFIES, INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF PRIVACY CONCERNS, COSTS,**  
12 **AND TIMELINESS OF DEPLOYMENT;**

13           **(3) DESIGN AND OPERATE AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM PILOT**  
14 **PROGRAM TO INTEGRATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS WITHIN STATE AND**  
15 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS THAT RELATE TO FIRE SAFETY FUNCTIONS; AND**

16           **(4) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOW BEST TO INTEGRATE**  
17 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY WITHIN LOCAL AND STATE**  
18 **GOVERNMENT FIRE SAFETY FUNCTIONS.**

19           **(G) (1) AS PART OF THE PILOT PROGRAM OPERATED UNDER SUBSECTION**  
20 **(F)(3) OF THIS SECTION, THE WORKGROUP SHALL DEPLOY AT LEAST ONE TEAM OF**  
21 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM OPERATORS TO A REGION WITHIN THE STATE THAT**  
22 **HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL AS A FIRE HAZARD.**

23           **(2) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL TRAIN THE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT**  
24 **SYSTEM OPERATORS TO OPERATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN VARIOUS**  
25 **CONTEXTS RELATING TO THE AREAS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (F)(1) OF THIS**  
26 **SECTION.**

27           **(3) IN OPERATING THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE WORKGROUP MAY NOT**  
28 **INTERFERE WITH AN ACTIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION EFFORT UNLESS GRANTED**  
29 **PERMISSION TO ASSIST IN THE EFFORT BY A SUPERVISING AGENCY WITH THE**  
30 **AUTHORITY TO GRANT THE PERMISSION.**

31           **(4) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM OPERATORS MAY BE**

1 COMPENSATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE DURING TRAINING AND IN  
2 SUPPORT OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

3 (5) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023, EACH YEAR THE GOVERNOR  
4 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST  
5 \$350,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE TO PROVIDE RESEARCH,  
6 EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINING IN SUPPORT OF THE PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN  
7 THIS SECTION.

8 (H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2022, THE WORKGROUP SHALL REPORT  
9 ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
10 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2024,  
13 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
14 of no further force and effect.