

MCAA SB 702 State Correctional Facilities- Unautho

Uploaded by: Mary Ann Thompson

Position: FAV



SB-702 State Correctional Facilities- Unauthorized Operation of Unmanned Aircraft

MCAA Position: **Support with Amendment**

TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee

DATE: February 15, 2023

FROM: MaryAnn Thompson, President
Brandon Foster, Legislative Committee
Lamonte Cooke, Legislative Committee

The operation of unmanned aircraft has been a growing threat to the safety and security of Maryland correctional facilities. These aircraft can be used to deliver contraband to areas in and around a facility with the intention to get these prohibited and/or illegal items into the hands of those who are incarcerated.

This bill would criminalize the operation of unmanned aircraft above a State correctional facility. The MCAA supports this bill with amendment. We propose that this bill be amended to include local correctional facilities.

SB702-Drones.pdf

Uploaded by: Carolyn Scruggs

Position: FWA



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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JENNIFER A. BESKID
DIRECTOR

BILL: SENATE BILL 702

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

EXPLANATION: This bill will prohibit a person from operating or causing the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle over a State correctional facility and provides a penalty for a violation.

COMMENTS:

- The Department operates the Division of Correction (DOC) and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS).
 - DOC operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer.
 - DPDS operates the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
- Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly referred to as drones, are increasingly being used to conduct unauthorized surveillance and are used to introduce contraband into correctional facilities.
- The introduction of contraband into a correctional facility is extremely dangerous for the incarcerated population and for correctional officers as contraband increases violence.
- This bill is an essential measure in preventing the use of drones for aerial surveillance of a correctional facility and for preventing the introduction of contraband including drugs and weapons.
- The Department would like to offer the following Amendment to include local correctional facilities:
 - On page 2, line 6 after State insert **OR LOCAL**;
 - On page 2, line 7, after Designee, insert **OR BY THE SHERIFF OF A LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OR THE SHERIFF'S DESIGNEE.**

CONCLUSION: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee to vote **FAVORABLY** on Senate Bill 702.

MCPA-MSA_SB 702_ Unauthorized Operation of Unmanned

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FWA



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 22, 2023

RE: **SB 702 – Correctional Services - State Correctional Facilities - Unauthorized
Operation of Unmanned Aircraft**

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS SB 702**. This bill would prohibit the operation of unmanned aircraft above state correctional facilities.

The prohibitions in SB 702 are targeted at drones and similar technology. These devices can be used to aerially surveil and access sensitive areas of the facilities that would otherwise be inaccessible to outsiders or those without special privileges. Contraband is a very real and very dangerous issue in correctional facilities and drones make it easier for people to remotely get contraband onto facility grounds. The prohibitions and penalties in this bill are necessary precautions against the nefarious actions of those using drones to get access to people and places behind the walls of correctional facilities.

Unfortunately, the bill does not include local correctional facilities which face the same safety concerns as their state counterparts. Local jails are unable to independently impose restrictions on the use of unmanned aircraft above their facilities as state law prohibits anyone but the state from enacting a law or taking other official action to restrict, prohibit, or otherwise regulate the testing or operation of drones. Therefore, MCPA and MSA request an amendment to expand the prohibition against the operation of unmanned aircraft to local correctional facilities unless authorized by the local correctional administrator or the local correctional administrator's designee.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 702** and urge a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** Committee report.

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