

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL DRS35241-LMf-95

Short Title: Drones/Certain Vendor Purchases Prohibited. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators B. Newton, Brinson, and Daniel (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE STATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE
3 STATE SHALL NOT PURCHASE ANY SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM
4 MANUFACTURED OR ASSEMBLED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN VENDORS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
7 a new section to read:

8 **"§143-59.5. Purchase of small unmanned aircraft from covered foreign entities.**

9 (a) Neither the State nor any political subdivision of the State shall purchase or otherwise
10 acquire any small, unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign
11 entity. No State funds may be used in connection with the purchase or acquisition of any small,
12 unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity, including any
13 State funds provided through a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement.

14 (b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

15 (1) Covered foreign entity. – An individual, foreign government, or party that
16 meets one or more of the following criteria:

17 a. Is on the United State's Consolidated Screening List or Entity List.

18 b. Is domiciled in the People's Republic of China or the Russian
19 Federation.

20 c. Is under the influence or control of the government of the People's
21 Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

22 d. Is a subsidiary or affiliate of an individual, government, or party of the
23 People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

24 (2) Small, unmanned aircraft system. – An unmanned, powered aircraft that meets
25 all of the following criteria:

26 a. Is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from
27 on or within the aircraft.

28 b. Can be expendable or recoverable.

29 c. Weighs less than 55 pounds, including the weight of anything attached
30 to or carried by the aircraft.

31 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to small,
32 unmanned aircraft purchased on or after July 1, 2027.

