

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H3/4/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1504

5 By: Representative S. Meeks
6 By: Senator M. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF MANUFACTURING,
10 MODIFYING, SELLING, TRANSFERRING, OR OPERATING A
11 ROBOTIC DEVICE OR AN UNCREWED AIRCRAFT THAT IS
12 EQUIPPED OR MOUNTED WITH A WEAPON; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

17 TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF MANUFACTURING,
18 MODIFYING, SELLING, TRANSFERRING, OR
19 OPERATING A ROBOTIC DEVICE OR AN
20 UNCREWED AIRCRAFT THAT IS EQUIPPED OR
21 MOUNTED WITH A WEAPON.
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Subtitle 6, is amended to add an
26 additional chapter to read as follows:

27 Chapter 80 – Robotic Devices and Uncrewed Aircraft
28

29 5-80-101. Definitions.

30 As used in this chapter:

31 (1) "Robot competition" means an event or instructional course
32 or meeting organized and supervised by an educational institution, summer
33 camp, sports league, television or film entertainment company, or similar
34 organization for which reasonable safety precautions have been taken to
35 protect participants, event staff, and spectators;

36 (2) "Robotic device" means a mechanical device that:



1 (A) Is capable of locomotion, navigation, or movement on
2 the ground; and

3 (B) Operates at a distance from its operator based on
4 commands or in response to sensor data or a combination of commands and
5 response to sensor data;

6 (3) "Uncrewed aircraft" means an aircraft, as defined by § 5-75-
7 101, that is operated without the possibility of direct human operation or
8 intervention from within or on the aircraft; and

9 (4) "Weapon means a device that is designed to threaten or cause
10 death, incapacitation, or physical injury to a person, including without
11 limitation:

12 (A) A stun gun;

13 (B) A firearm;

14 (C) A machine gun;

15 (D) A chemical agent or irritant;

16 (E) A kinetic impact projectile;

17 (F) A weaponized laser; and

18 (G) An explosive device.

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20 5-80-102. Unlawful acts.

21 (a) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to manufacture, modify,
22 sell, transfer, or operate a robotic device equipped or mounted with a weapon
23 or an uncrewed aircraft equipped or mounted with a weapon.

24 (b) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to use a robotic device or
25 an uncrewed aircraft to:

26 (1) Commit the offense of terroristic threatening under § 5-13-
27 301 et seq.; or

28 (2) Commit the offense of harassment under § 5-71-208.

29 (c) It is unlawful for a person knowingly to use a robotic device or
30 an uncrewed aircraft to physically restrain or to attempt to physically
31 restrain a human being.

32 (d) A person who commits an offense under this section is guilty of a
33 violation and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum of not less than five
34 thousand dollars (\$5,000) nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars
35 (\$25,000).

36 (e) A person who knowingly uses or directs a robotic device equipped

1 or mounted with a weapon or an uncrewed aircraft equipped or mounted with a
2 weapon to commit or facilitate the commission of another offense shall be
3 held criminally liable for that offense as if the person had personally
4 committed the act.

5 (f) This section does not sanction, authorize, prohibit, or regulate
6 the procurement or operation of a robotic device by a governmental entity.

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8 5-80-103. Exceptions.

9 (a) This chapter shall not apply to:

10 (1) A defense industrial company that is under contract with the
11 United States Department of Defense with respect to robotic devices and
12 uncrewed aircraft being developed or produced under that contract;

13 (2) A defense industrial company that obtains a waiver from the
14 Attorney General regarding robotic devices and uncrewed aircraft;

15 (3) A robotics company that obtains a waiver from the Attorney
16 General for the purpose of testing anti-weaponization technologies with
17 respect to robotic devices and uncrewed aircraft;

18 (4)(A) A person operating a nonautonomous robotic device that is
19 designed and built specifically for the purpose of participating in a robot
20 competition and equipped with weapons typically used for the purpose of
21 participating in a robot competition.

22 (B) Subdivision (a)(4)(A) of this section does not allow
23 the use of a firearm on a robotic device used in a robot competition; or

24 (5) A person operating a robotic device equipped with a blank-
25 firing weapon or attachments to a blank-firing weapon when the person is
26 authorized or permitted to acquire and possess a blank-firing weapon or
27 attachments to a blank-firing weapon for use solely as a prop in a motion
28 picture, television program, digital video production, or an entertainment
29 event.

30 (b) It shall not be a violation of this chapter for an individual
31 employed by the United States Government, the state, a county or municipal
32 law enforcement agency, or an accredited bomb squad who is acting in the
33 public performance of his or her duties to operate a robotic device that is
34 equipped or mounted with a weapon or an uncrewed aircraft that is equipped or
35 mounted with a weapon if the individual is doing so for the purpose of the
36 following without limitation:

1 (1) Disposing of explosives or suspected explosives;

2 (2) Developing, evaluating, testing, providing education on, or
3 providing training on a robotic device or an uncrewed aircraft for the
4 purpose of disposing of explosives or suspected explosives;

5 (3) Destroying property in cases where there is an imminent,
6 deadly threat to human life; or

7 (4) Using physical force in compliance with § 5-2-610.
8 5-80-104. Law enforcement – Duties.

9 A law enforcement agency shall obtain a warrant or other legally
10 required judicial authorization before the law enforcement agency may:

11 (1) Deploy a robotic device onto private property in a situation
12 in which a warrant or other legally required judicial authorization would be
13 required if the entry onto the private property were made by a human law
14 enforcement officer; or

15 (2) Deploy a robotic device to conduct surveillance or location
16 tracking in a situation in which a warrant or other legally required judicial
17 authorization would be required if the surveillance or location tracking were
18 conducted by a human law enforcement officer or a form of technology.

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20 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 118 is amended to add an
21 additional section to read as follows:

22 16-118-119. Civil action for unlawful use of robotic device or
23 uncrewed aircraft.

24 (a) The Attorney General may bring an action against a person who is
25 suspected of violating this chapter.

26 (b)(1) A person whose property or person is injured by reason of a
27 violation of § 5-80-101 et seq. or rules promulgated pursuant to § 5-80-101
28 et seq. may sue for the injury and recover for any damages sustained and the
29 costs of the suit.

30 (2) A civil action brought under subdivision (b)(1) of this
31 section shall be brought against the government agency alleged to have
32 violated this chapter, or, in the case of an individual, to the person
33 alleged to have violated this chapter.

34 (3) In a civil action in which the plaintiff prevails, a court
35 may award:

36 (A) Liquidated damages of not less than five hundred

1 dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000);

2 (B) Punitive damages; or

3 (C) Any other relief that the court deems appropriate,
4 including without limitation injunctive relief.

5 (4) In a civil action in which the plaintiff prevails, a court
6 shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

7 (5) A person may not bring a civil action against a law
8 enforcement officer or a member of an accredited bomb squad under subsection
9 (b) of this section for using a robotic device or an uncrewed aircraft in
10 good faith and in the line of duty.

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12 /s/S. Meeks
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