

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/4/25 H3/10/25*

2 95th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1504

4

5 By: Representative S. Meeks

6 By: Senator M. Johnson

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## 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

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

23

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Subtitle 6, is amended to add an  
26 additional chapter to read as follows:

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### Chapter 80 – Robotic Devices and Uncrewed Aircraft

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#### 5-80-101. Definitions.

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#### As used in this chapter:

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(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;

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(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;

18 (G) An explosive device; and

19 (H) A flame thrower.

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21 5-80-102. Unlawful acts.

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

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

27 (1) Commit the offense of terroristic threatening under § 5-13-  
28 301 et seq.; or

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

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

33 (d) A person who commits an offense under this section is guilty of a  
34 violation and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum of not less than five  
35 thousand dollars (\$5,000) nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars  
36 (\$25,000).

1 (e) A person who knowingly uses or directs a robotic device equipped  
2 or mounted with a weapon or an uncrewed aircraft equipped or mounted with a  
3 weapon to commit or facilitate the commission of another offense shall be  
4 held criminally liable for that offense as if the person had personally  
5 committed the act.

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

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9 5-80-103. Exceptions.

10 (a) This chapter shall not apply to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (b) It shall not be a violation of this chapter for an individual  
32 employed by the United States Government, the state, a county or municipal  
33 law enforcement agency, or an accredited bomb squad who is acting in the  
34 public performance of his or her duties to operate a robotic device that is  
35 equipped or mounted with a weapon or an uncrewed aircraft that is equipped or  
36 mounted with a weapon if the individual is doing so for the purpose of the

1 following without limitation:

2 (1) Disposing of explosives or suspected explosives;

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

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

8 (4) Using physical force in compliance with § 5-2-610.

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

12 16-118-119. Civil action for unlawful use of robotic device or  
13 uncrewed aircraft.

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

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

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

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

26 (A) Liquidated damages of not less than five hundred  
27 dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000);

28 (B) Punitive damages; or

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

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

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

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*/s/S. Meeks*