

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2156

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for launching drones that interfere with fighting fires affecting Federal property or responding to disasters affecting interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2015

Mrs. SHAHEEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for launching drones that interfere with fighting fires affecting Federal property or responding to disasters affecting interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Wildfire and Emer-  
5       gency Airspace Protection Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. LAUNCHING DRONES THAT INTERFERE WITH**  
 2 **FIGHTING FIRES AFFECTING FEDERAL PROP-**  
 3 **ERTY OR RESPONDING TO DISASTERS AF-**  
 4 **FECTING INTERSTATE OR FOREIGN COM-**  
 5 **MERCE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 65 of title 18, United  
 7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 8 lowing:

9 **“§ 1370. Launching drones that interfere with fight-**  
 10 **ing fires affecting Federal property or re-**  
 11 **sponding to disasters affecting interstate**  
 12 **or foreign commerce**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

14 “(1) the term ‘covered disaster’ means a dis-  
 15 aster that affects interstate or foreign commerce;  
 16 and

17 “(2) the term ‘covered fire’ means a fire that  
 18 threatens the real or personal property of the United  
 19 States, or of any department or agency thereof.

20 “(b) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly launches a  
 21 drone for recreational purposes in a place near a covered  
 22 fire or covered disaster, and is reckless as to whether that  
 23 drone will interfere with fighting the fire or responding  
 24 to the disaster, if the drone does interfere with that fire-  
 25 fighting or disaster response, shall be fined under this  
 26 title, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

1       “(c) AGRICULTURAL USE OF DRONES NOT AF-  
2 FECTED.—For purposes of subsection (b), the term ‘rec-  
3 reational purposes’ does not include agricultural pur-  
4 poses.”.

5       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
6 for chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following:

“1370. Launching drones that interfere with fighting fires affecting Federal  
property or responding to disasters affecting interstate or for-  
eign commerce.”.

