

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 129

To amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to establish a prohibition to prevent the use of an unmanned aircraft system as a weapon while operating in the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. BURGESS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to establish a prohibition to prevent the use of an unmanned aircraft system as a weapon while operating in the national airspace system, 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 “No Armed Drones Act
5 of 2017” or the “NADA Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title III of the FAA
8 Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101

1 note; 126 Stat. 72) is amended by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 **“SEC. 337. PROHIBITION TO PREVENT USE OF UNMANNED**
4 **AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AS WEAPONS WHILE OP-**
5 **ERATING IN NATIONAL AIRSPACE SYSTEM.**

6 “(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Transpor-
7 tation may not authorize a person to operate an unmanned
8 aircraft system in the national airspace system for the
9 purpose, in whole or in part, of using the unmanned air-
10 craft system as a weapon or to deliver a weapon against
11 a person or property.

12 “(b) GENERAL EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may
13 establish exceptions to the prohibition in subsection (a) for
14 operations of unmanned aircraft systems related to—

15 “(1) recreational hunting;

16 “(2) animal control; and

17 “(3) such other purposes as the Secretary de-
18 termines appropriate.

19 “(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR OPERATIONS OF PUBLIC UN-
20 MANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—The Secretary may estab-
21 lish exceptions to the prohibition in subsection (a) for op-
22 erations of public unmanned aircraft systems related to—

23 “(1) operations conducted by U.S. Customs and
24 Border Protection;

1 “(2) operations conducted by the Department
2 of Defense, including establishing areas of airspace
3 for such operations under section 40103(b)(3) of
4 title 49, United States Code; and

5 “(3) operations conducted by a governmental
6 entity described in the definition of ‘public aircraft’
7 in section 40102(a) of such title for national defense
8 purposes or in response to a terrorist event.

9 “(d) PROCEDURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY.—
10 In authorizing operations pursuant to subsections (b) and
11 (c), the Secretary shall implement procedures to ensure
12 that reasonable precautions are taken to protect public
13 safety.

14 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
15 definitions apply:

16 “(1) PERSON.—The term ‘person’, in addition
17 to its meaning under section 1 of title 1, United
18 States Code, includes a governmental authority and
19 a trustee, receiver, assignee, and other similar rep-
20 resentative.

21 “(2) WEAPON.—The term ‘weapon’ includes le-
22 thal and nonlethal weapons.”.

23 “(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
24 contained in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by insert-
25 ing after the item relating to section 336 the following:

“Sec. 337. Prohibition to prevent use of unmanned aircraft systems as weapons while operating in national airspace system.”.

