

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1613**

Introduced by

Representatives Hendrix, Christianson, Koppelman, VanWinkle, Toman

Senators Castaneda, Magrum, Paulson

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 29-29.4-01, 29-29.4-02, 29-29.4-03,  
2 29-29.4-04, 29-29.4-05, and 29-29.4-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to law  
3 enforcement use of a robot.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-29.4-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **29-29.4-01. Definitions.**

8 As used in this chapter:

- 9 1. "Flight data" means imaging or other observation recording.
- 10 2. "Flight information" means flight duration, flight path, and mission objective.
- 11 3. "Law enforcement agency or agents" has the meaning provided for law enforcement  
12 officer in section 12.1-01-04.
- 13 4. "Robot" means an artificial object or system that senses, processes, and acts using  
14 technology. The term includes the associated elements, communication links, and  
15 associated artificial intelligence technologies.
- 16 5. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means any aerial vehicle that is operated without the  
17 possibility of direct human intervention within or on the aerial vehicle. The term does  
18 not include satellites.
- 19 5-6. "Unmanned aerial vehicle system" means an unmanned aerial vehicle and associated  
20 elements, including communication links and the components that control the  
21 unmanned aerial vehicle, which are required for the pilot in command to operate safely  
22 and efficiently in state airspace.

1       **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-29.4-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **29-29.4-02. Limitations on use of unmanned aerial vehicle ~~systems~~systems and**  
4 **robots.**

- 5       1. Information obtained from an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot is not admissible in a  
6 prosecution or proceeding within the state unless the information was obtained:  
7       a. Pursuant to the authority of a search warrant; or  
8       b. In accordance with exceptions to the warrant requirement.  
9       2. Information obtained from the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot may  
10 not be used in an affidavit of probable cause in an effort to obtain a search warrant,  
11 unless the information was obtained under the circumstances described in subdivision  
12 a or b of subsection 1 or was obtained through the monitoring of public lands or  
13 international borders.

14       **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-29.4-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16       **29-29.4-03. Warrant requirements.**

17       A warrant for the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot must satisfy the requirements  
18 of the Constitution of North Dakota. In addition, the warrant must contain a data collection  
19 statement that includes:

- 20       1. The persons that will have the power to authorize the use of the unmanned aerial  
21 vehicle or robot;  
22       2. The locations in which the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will operate;  
23       3. The maximum period for which the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will  
24 operate in each flight; and  
25       4. Whether the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will collect information or data  
26 about individuals or groups of individuals, and if so:  
27       a. The circumstances under which the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will  
28 be used; and  
29       b. The specific kinds of information or data the unmanned aerial vehicle system or  
30 robot will collect about individuals and how that information or data, as well as

1 conclusions drawn from that information or data, will be used, disclosed, and  
2 otherwise handled, including:

3 (1) The period for which the information or data will be retained; and

4 (2) Whether the information or data will be destroyed, and if so, when and how  
5 the information or data will be destroyed.

6 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-29.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **29-29.4-04. Exceptions.**

9 This chapter does not prohibit any use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot for  
10 surveillance during the course of:

11 1. Patrol of national borders. The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot to patrol  
12 within twenty-five miles [40.23 kilometers] of a national border, for purposes of policing  
13 that border to prevent or deter the illegal entry of any individual, illegal substance, or  
14 contraband.

15 2. Exigent circumstances. The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot by a law  
16 enforcement agency is permitted when exigent circumstances exist. For the purposes  
17 of this subsection, exigent circumstances exist when a law enforcement agency  
18 possesses reasonable suspicion that absent swift preventative action, there is an  
19 imminent danger to life or bodily harm.

20 3. An environmental or weather-related catastrophe. The use of an unmanned aerial  
21 vehicle or robot by state or local authorities to preserve public safety, protect property,  
22 survey environmental damage to determine if a state of emergency should be  
23 declared, or conduct surveillance for the assessment and evaluation of environmental  
24 or weather-related damage, erosion, flood, or contamination.

25 4. Research, education, training, testing, or development efforts undertaken by or in  
26 conjunction with a school or institution of higher education within the state and its  
27 political subdivisions, nor to public and private collaborators engaged in mutually  
28 supported efforts involving research, education, training, testing, or development  
29 related to unmanned aerial vehicle systems or, unmanned aerial vehicle system  
30 technologies, or robot and potential applications.

1       **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-29.4-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **29-29.4-05. Prohibited use.**

- 4       1. A law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of, including granting a permit to  
5 use, an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot armed with any lethal weapons.
- 6       2. This chapter prohibits any use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot for:
- 7           a. Domestic use in private surveillance. A law enforcement agency may not  
8 authorize the use of, including granting a permit to use, an unmanned aerial  
9 vehicle or robot to permit any private person to conduct surveillance on any other  
10 private person without the express, informed consent of that other person or the  
11 owner of any real property on which that other private person is present.
- 12           b. Surveillance of the lawful exercise of constitutional rights, unless the surveillance  
13 is otherwise allowed under this chapter.

14       **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 29-29.4-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16       **29-29.4-06. Documentation of unmanned aerial vehicle or robot use.**

- 17       1. The person authorized to conduct the surveillance under this chapter shall document  
18 all use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot for surveillance. The person shall  
19 document all surveillance flights as to duration, flight path, and mission objectives.
- 20       2. The flight information must be verified as accurate and complete by the supervising  
21 person authorized by a court to conduct the surveillance.
- 22       3. The flight information required under this section must be retained for five years.
- 23       4. Any imaging or any other forms of data lawfully obtained under this chapter which are  
24 not accompanied by a reasonable and articulable suspicion that the images or data  
25 contain evidence of a crime, or are relevant to an ongoing investigation or trial, may  
26 not be retained for more than ninety days.
- 27       5. Except for the operational capabilities of the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot  
28 and other operational information strictly related to the technical conduct and physical  
29 security of the surveillance operation, a person accused of a crime that includes  
30 evidence gathered through the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot  
31 surveillance may obtain all information relating to the person acquired in the course of

- 1           the surveillance through subpoena and discovery proceedings available in criminal  
2           proceedings.
- 3         6. Any other person that has an interest in obtaining the documentation required by this  
4           section may obtain that documentation pursuant to chapter 44-04.