

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
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. "Autonomously" means to operate or govern itself without direct human control.

10 2. "Flight data" means imaging or other observation recording.

11 ~~2-3.~~ "Flight information" means flight duration, flight path, and mission objective.

12 ~~3-4.~~ "Law enforcement agency or agents" has the meaning provided for law enforcement  
13 officer in section 12.1-01-04.

14 4-5. "Less than lethal weapon" means a designed and manufactured object, substance, or  
15 weapon that does not create a substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death when  
16 used by an individual with proper training.

17 6. "Lethal weapon" means an object, substance, or device designed to cause serious  
18 bodily injury or death.

19 7. "Remotely" means directly controlled by human action and decisions.

1 8. "Robot" means ~~an artificial object or system that senses, processes, and acts using~~  
2 ~~technology. The term includes the associated elements, communication links, and~~  
3 ~~associated artificial intelligence technologies~~ a powered artificial machine or system  
4 that upon activation will operate in whole or in part autonomously to perform physical  
5 tasks or decisionmaking without real-time human control. The term includes a system  
6 capable of using force, conducting surveillance, or moving independent of direct  
7 human input. The term does not include a law enforcement body-worn camera, a law  
8 enforcement in-car camera or license plate reader, or any other law enforcement  
9 camera that does not require a search warrant.

10 5.9. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means any aerial vehicle that is operated without the  
11 possibility of direct human intervention within or on the aerial vehicle. The term does  
12 not include satellites.

13 5.6.10. "Unmanned aerial vehicle system" means an unmanned aerial vehicle and associated  
14 elements, including communication links and the components that control the  
15 unmanned aerial vehicle, which are required for the pilot in command to operate safely  
16 and efficiently in state airspace.

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

19 **29-29.4-02. Limitations on use of unmanned aerial vehicle systems and**  
20 **robots.**

- 21 1. Information obtained from an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot is not admissible in a  
22 prosecution or proceeding within the state unless the information was obtained:
  - 23 a. Pursuant to the authority of a search warrant; or
  - 24 b. In accordance with exceptions to the warrant requirement.
- 25 2. Information obtained from the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot may  
26 not be used in an affidavit of probable cause in an effort to obtain a search warrant,  
27 unless the information was obtained under the circumstances described in subdivision  
28 a or b of subsection 1 or was obtained through the monitoring of public lands or  
29 international borders.

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

1       **29-29.4-03. Warrant requirements.**

2       A warrant for the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot for the purpose of surveillance  
3 must satisfy the requirements of the Constitution of North Dakota. In addition, the warrant must  
4 contain a data collection statement that includes:

- 5       1. The persons that will have the power to authorize the use of the unmanned aerial  
6       vehicle or robot;
- 7       2. The locations in which the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will operate;
- 8       3. The maximum period for which the unmanned aerial vehicle system ~~or robot~~ will  
9       operate in each flight or deployment; and
- 10      4. Whether the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will collect information or data  
11      about individuals or groups of individuals, and if so:
  - 12      a. The circumstances under which the unmanned aerial vehicle system or robot will  
13      be used; and
  - 14      b. The specific kinds of information or data the unmanned aerial vehicle system or  
15      robot will collect about individuals and how that information or data, as well as  
16      conclusions drawn from that information or data, will be used, disclosed, and  
17      otherwise handled, including:
    - 18      (1) The period for which the information or data will be retained; and
    - 19      (2) Whether the information or data will be destroyed, and if so, when and how  
20      the information or data will be destroyed.

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

23       **29-29.4-04. Exceptions.**

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

- 26      1. Patrol of national borders. The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot to patrol  
27      within twenty-five miles [40.23 kilometers] of a national border, for purposes of policing  
28      that border to prevent or deter the illegal entry of any individual, illegal substance, or  
29      contraband.
- 30      2. Exigent circumstances. The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot by a law  
31      enforcement agency is permitted when exigent circumstances exist. For the purposes

1 of this subsection, exigent circumstances exist when a law enforcement agency  
2 possesses reasonable suspicion that absent swift preventative action, there is an  
3 imminent danger to life or bodily harm.

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

9 4. Research, education, training, testing, or development efforts undertaken by or in  
10 conjunction with a school or institution of higher education within the state and its  
11 political subdivisions, nor to public and private collaborators engaged in mutually  
12 supported efforts involving research, education, training, testing, or development  
13 related to unmanned aerial vehicle systems ~~or~~, unmanned aerial vehicle system  
14 technologies, or robot and potential applications.

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

17 **29-29.4-05. Prohibited use - Exceptions.**

18 1. A law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of, including granting a permit to  
19 use, an unmanned aerial vehicle ~~or robot~~ armed with any lethal weapons.

20 2. This chapter prohibits any use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot for:

21 a. Domestic use in private surveillance. A law enforcement agency may not  
22 authorize the use of, including granting a permit to use, an unmanned aerial  
23 vehicle or robot to permit any private person to conduct surveillance on any other  
24 private person without the express, informed consent of that other person or the  
25 owner of any real property on which that other private person is present.

26 b. Surveillance of the lawful exercise of constitutional rights, unless the surveillance  
27 is otherwise allowed under this chapter.

28 3. A law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of a robot to deploy a lethal  
29 weapon, unless the weapon is controlled remotely, cannot be activated autonomously,  
30 and is used to:

- 1           a. Neutralize an inanimate object at risk of exploding or causing an immediate  
2           threat to public safety or property; or  
3           b. Prevent an imminent and substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death to a law  
4           enforcement officer or another individual, in a circumstance where the use of  
5           lethal force by an officer would be legally justified.
- 6           4. A law enforcement agency may not authorize the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle or  
7           robot to deploy a less than lethal weapon, unless the weapon is controlled remotely  
8           and cannot be activated autonomously.
- 9           5. A law enforcement agency, before authorizing any use of force, shall adopt a policy on  
10           the use of force by an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot, which includes the individuals  
11           with authority to authorize the use of force by an unmanned aerial vehicle or robot.

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

14           **29-29.4-06. Documentation of unmanned aerial vehicle or robot use.**

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

- 1           6. A law enforcement agency deploying a robot armed with a lethal weapon shall  
2           document the requirements provided in section 29-29.4-05.  
3       7. 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.