

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2043 (Calderon) – As Amended April 6, 2026

Policy Committee:	Emergency Management	Vote:	6 - 0
	Privacy and Consumer Protection		15 - 0

Urgency: Yes      State Mandated Local Program: No      Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to establish the Countering Unmanned Aircraft Systems Task Force (Task Force).

Specifically, this bill, as an urgency statute:

- 1) Requires OES to establish and lead the Task Force by January 1, 2027, to develop a statewide strategy to protect mass gatherings, critical infrastructure, and other soft targets from attacks by unmanned aircraft systems (drones).
- 2) Requires the OES director to compose a Task Force membership representing certain state and non-state entities, such as the State Threat Assessment Center, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Military Department (CMD), Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), California Utilities Emergency Association, LA28 Organizing Committee of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a National Football League team based in California, and an organization devoted to the protection of personal privacy, among others.
- 3) Allows the Task Force to undertake certain activities to achieve its purpose, such as conducting risk assessments to identify high-priority areas for the detection of drones, ensuring first responders receive appropriate training to operate drone detection systems and designing tabletop exercises to simulate drone-related incidents, among others.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Costs of approximately \$1 million annually to OES for four additional staff positions to immediately establish and lead the Task Force (General Fund (GF)). Additionally, cost pressures of approximately \$2.9 million annually to OES for eight additional staff positions should the Task Force determine all the enumerated activities the Task Force may undertake to achieve its purpose are necessary (GF).
- 2) Costs of an unknown amount to CHP, CMD, and CAL FIRE to participate on the task force.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently warned of GF structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, “In recent years, criminals, terrorist, and hostile foreign actors with malicious intentions have intensified their use of drones. We need to have a statewide strategy to counter this evolving threat and to keep the World Cup and Olympic Games safe.” This bill is supported by the Public Officers’ Research Association of California.
  
- 2) **Drone Attacks.** Drones have become increasingly popular due to their various applications and mass availability. However, concerns about the potential for drones to harm critical infrastructure and the public has led to local and federal investments in drone detection and mitigation. The federal SAFER SKIES Act of 2025 (SSA) authorizes local, state, and tribal, and territorial law enforcement to respond to drone threats near airports, stadiums, and other sensitive locations through 2031. The SSA also requires the Federal Bureau of Investigation to train state and local law enforcement on counter-drone technology and provides related grant funding to purchase counter-drone equipment. Additionally, a June 6, 2025, executive order created a Federal Task Force to Restore American Airspace Sovereignty to develop solutions to drone threats. This bill similarly establishes a state drone task force to implement a statewide strategy to deter and counter drone attacks by ensuring public safety entities have the resources, training, and operational capacity to detect, track, identify, and mitigate drone threats.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081