

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2113 (McKinnor) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee:	Privacy and Consumer Protection	Vote:	15 - 0
	Arts, Entertainment, Sports, and Tourism		9 - 0

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

**SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits operating a drone within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event unless a person has permission from the event venue operator, is a venue employee performing official duties, or is a utility worker performing official duties. The bill establishes a fine of \$500 per violation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No new state costs. Costs incurred by local agencies will be because the bill creates a new crime or infraction and do not represent state-reimbursable local costs.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

While federal authorities oversee national airspace, local law enforcement often has the best knowledge and capacity to respond quickly to threats at individual venues. This bill empowers local authorities with a clear statutory framework, balancing safety, privacy, and access, to ensure that California’s live entertainment and sporting events remain safe, vibrant, and accessible for all residents and visitors.

2) **Background.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) uses the term “unmanned aircraft systems” (UAS) to refer to vehicles commonly known as drones. UAS come in a variety of shapes and sizes and serve diverse purposes. Although not always thought of when the word “drone” is used, hobby-size airplanes and helicopters that are equipped with digital cameras are becoming more and more affordable for the average consumer. This hobby aircraft may be used for pure novelty, surveying one’s yard, or even checking to see the condition of a roof. If a drone meets the definition of “model aircraft,” and operates within specified parameters, the operator does not need specific authorization from the FAA to fly it.

The FAA prohibits drone flying in and around sports stadiums during events held by Major League Baseball, the National Football League, NCAA Division I Football, NASCAR Sprint Cup, Indy Car, and Champ Series races. However, live events such as concerts held in stadiums and amphitheaters or other outdoor spaces in California are not included in the FAA’s prohibition.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081