

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2113 (McKinnor)

As Amended August 20, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill makes it unlawful to operate an unmanned aircraft (UA) within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment venue or amusement park, except as specified, and makes a violation an infraction punishable by a fine of \$500.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Clarifies that the section does not prohibit a firefighter, peace officer, medical personnel, or other emergency personnel in the performance of their fire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response duties from using an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event.
- 2) Adds amusement parks to the prohibited venues.
- 3) Exempts a professional drone pilot that holds a certificate, waiver, or other authorization issued by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate an unmanned aircraft, is operating for a commercial purpose, is authorized to conduct commercial operations beyond visual line of sight using unmanned aircraft and is operating in compliance with all applicable federal regulations and the terms of that authorization.
- 4) Clarifies that professional drone pilots are prohibited from capturing video of images with the intent to distribute copyrighted images or video of a ticketed entertainment event or amusement park without authorization from the venue operator.

COMMENTS

Drones—termed “unmanned aircraft” and “unmanned aircraft systems” in the Government Code—are increasingly used by government, businesses, and private individuals for a variety of purposes, including law enforcement surveillance, monitoring wildfires, package delivery, search and rescue efforts, or simply for fun. Many drones, whether professional or recreational, come equipped with a camera allowing them to record everything they fly over, including live entertainment events.

As recreational drones have become more affordable in recent years, they have become more ubiquitous. The author argues that this proliferation has created new public safety challenges, particularly at large, ticketed entertainment events that draw dense crowds. Outdoor concerts, sporting events, and festivals often host tens of thousands of attendees in confined spaces, where unauthorized drone operations may pose risks of injury, disruption, and interference with emergency response efforts.

National Security Special Events. In addition to the stadium restrictions, the FAA establishes temporary flight restrictions (TFR) for certain events that the federal government designates as National Security Special Events. These restrictions apply to both drones and planes. The only exceptions are for emergency, public safety, and military aircraft. During Super Bowl LX at Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, the FAA issued a TFR that restricted air traffic during the week leading

up to the game and the game itself. On the day of the game, the TFR had "a 30-nautical-mile outer ring and a more restrictive 10-nautical-mile inner core."

The FAA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) coordinated to enforce several TFRs during the week of the Super Bowl, with special restrictions for drones. These restrictions for drone operators included a no-fly zone within 30 nautical miles and 18,000 feet above Levi Stadium during the game.

According to the Author

AB 2113 is intended to protect public safety at large, ticketed entertainment events by establishing clear limits on the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) over these venues. With California hosting some of the world's largest concerts, sporting events, and festivals, unauthorized drones pose real risks to attendees, performers, and event personnel. 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.

Arguments in Support

Live Nation, the sponsor of the bill, writes in support stating:

Live events are an integral part of California's economy, attracting millions of visitors each year and driving tens of millions in local economic impact across the state. Live Nation alone produces hundreds of outdoor concerts each year at amphitheaters, stadiums, and other open spaces in California. The safety of our guests is a priority for us, as it is for all other event organizers across the state. That requires understanding the ever evolving of technology that bad actors may use, including drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles. Drone usage has skyrocketed in recent years (160% increase since 2019 according to the FAA[Fn. Omitted]). Like many of our colleagues in other live events, we have experienced a growing number of unauthorized drone incursions at outdoor festivals, stadiums, and amphitheaters.

Despite that, under current rules and regulations many high-density events such as outdoor festivals and concerts are excluded from existing prohibitions on unauthorized drone use, despite facing comparable security risks to the highest profile of gatherings. As a result, AB 2113 will dramatically improve the safety of live events by enacting an outright ban on operating unauthorized drones and other unmanned aircraft over large crowds at ticketed entertainment events.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Appropriations Committee:

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.

VOTES:**ASM PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION: 15-0-0**

YES: Lowenthal, Macedo, Bryan, DeMaio, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, McKinnor, Ortega, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ward, Wicks, Wilson

ASM ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM: 9-0-0

YES: Ward, Lackey, Elhawary, Jeff Gonzalez, McKinnor, Ortega, Quirk-Silva, Valencia, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Caloza, Ellis, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 72-0-8

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Calderon, Dixon, Gallagher, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez, Stefani, Wicks

SENATE FLOOR: 40-0-0

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

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