

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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Legislative Document

No. 2157

H.P. 1446

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

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### An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Use of Drones on or over the Premises of Correctional Facilities and Jails

Submitted by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

*R. B. Hunt*  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

1        **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2        **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §761** is enacted to read:

3        **§761. Unauthorized use of drone on or over premises of correctional facility or jail**

4        1. A person is guilty of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a  
5        correctional facility or jail if the person uses a drone to convey or attempt to convey prison  
6        contraband in violation of section 757.

7        2. A person is guilty of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a  
8        correctional facility or jail if the person in fact flies a drone over the premises of a  
9        correctional facility or jail at or below a height of 400 feet above the ground, lands a drone  
10        on the premises or flies a drone from the premises.

11        3. This section does not apply to:

12        A. A law enforcement officer, a corrections officer or a corrections supervisor engaged  
13        in the performance of the law enforcement officer's, corrections officer's or corrections  
14        supervisor's public duty; or

15        B. Another person acting in the course and scope of employment, as approved by the  
16        chief administrative officer of the correctional facility or the jail administrator.

17        4. It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that the person holds a valid  
18        license to operate a drone issued by the United States Department of Transportation,  
19        Federal Aviation Administration or is otherwise permitted to operate a drone pursuant to  
20        regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration.

21        5. Unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail  
22        is a Class C crime.

23        6. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings.

24        A. "Correctional facility" has the same meaning as in Title 34-A, section 1001,  
25        subsection 6.

26        B. "Drone" means an aircraft or aircraft system operated without a physical human  
27        presence within or on the aircraft and includes, but is not limited to, an unmanned  
28        aircraft system, unmanned aerial vehicle, remotely piloted aircraft system or micro air  
29        vehicle.

30        C. "Jail" means a county or regional jail.

31        D. "Micro air vehicle" means a drone that weighs less than one kilogram.

32        E. "Premises" includes, but is not limited to, lands, ways and any buildings or  
33        structures on those lands or ways.

34        F. "Remote pilot station" means equipment such as controls, displays or a cockpit  
35        located separately from a drone and used by an operator to fly a drone.

36        G. "Remotely piloted aircraft system" means a system that includes a drone, a remote  
37        pilot station and equipment for communication between the remote pilot station and  
38        the drone.

H. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means a powered aircraft that flies without a human pilot on board that is controlled either remotely from the ground or autonomously through a preprogrammed flight plan.

I. "Unmanned aircraft system" means a system that includes a drone, a remote control station and equipment for communication between the remote control station and the drone.

## SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Class C crime of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail, with certain exceptions.