

# 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

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

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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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert 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.