

By: Representative Touchstone

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF COUNTIES AND
2 MUNICIPALITIES FROM RESTRICTING AND REGULATING THE USE OF UNMANNED
3 AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) In this section the following words shall
7 have the following meanings:

8 (a) "Unmanned aircraft" means the flying portion of an
9 unmanned aircraft system, flown by a pilot via a ground control
10 system, or autonomously through use of an onboard computer, a
11 communication link, and any additional equipment that is necessary
12 for the unmanned aircraft to operate safely; and

13 (b) "Unmanned aircraft system" means an unmanned
14 aircraft and all the associated support equipment, control
15 stations, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation
16 equipment, and other equipment necessary to operate the unmanned
17 aircraft.

18 (2) Only the State of Mississippi may enact a law or take
19 any other action to prohibit, restrict, or regulate the testing or



20 operation of unmanned aircraft systems in the state for business
21 purposes.

22 (3) Subsection (2) of this section shall:

23 (a) Preempt the authority of a county or municipality
24 to prohibit, restrict, or regulate the testing or operation of
25 unmanned aircraft for business purposes; and

26 (b) Supersede any existing law or ordinance of a county
27 or municipality that prohibits, restricts, or regulates the
28 testing or operation of unmanned aircraft for business purposes.

29 (4) This section does not affect federal preemption of state
30 law.

31 (5) This section does not apply to the prohibition,
32 restriction, or regulation of the testing or operation of unmanned
33 aircraft for personal purposes.

34 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
35 and after July 1, 2018.

