

By: Senator(s) Whaley

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2853

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE STATE PURCHASED SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
2 SYSTEMS OR DRONES TO BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF
3 AMERICA AND POSSESS COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS; TO GRANT A 10%
4 BID PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
5 SYSTEMS AND RELATED SERVICES TO MISSISSIPPI MANUFACTURERS AND
6 SERVICING COMPANIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the
9 following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in
10 this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 (a) "sUAS" means a small unmanned aircraft system, also
12 called a drone, including the unmanned aircraft itself and any
13 additional support equipment, control stations, data links,
14 telemetry, communications and navigation equipment or any other
15 equipment necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft.

16 (b) "Domestic manufacturer" means a manufacturing
17 company incorporated and headquartered in the United States of
18 America which manufactures drones at a facility in the United
19 States of America.



20 (c) "Domestic sUAS company" means a company which
21 provides maintenance, repair, and other technical services for
22 small unmanned aircraft systems, including drones, which is
23 incorporated, headquartered and primarily provides such services
24 in the United States of America.

25 (d) "Collision avoidance system" means a system of
26 hardware or software designed to mitigate collision risk for
27 drones.

28 (2) Beginning July 1, 2023, all small unmanned aircraft
29 systems and drones purchased by the State of Mississippi or any
30 agency or political subdivision thereof shall be purchased
31 exclusively from a domestic manufacturer and shall possess
32 collision avoidance systems. All maintenance, repair and other
33 technical services on drones owned by the State of Mississippi or
34 any agency or political subdivision thereof shall be performed by
35 a domestic sUAS company. All infrastructure inspection services
36 requiring the use of sUAS and contracted for on behalf of the
37 State shall shall be performed using domestically manufactured
38 sUAS.

39 (3) In public procurement under Title 31, Chapter 7,
40 domestic manufacturers operating within the State of Mississippi
41 shall be granted a ten percent (10%) bid preference over
42 non-Mississippi manufacturers and domestic sUAS companies shall be
43 granted a ten percent (10%) bid preference over non-Mississippi
44 manufacturers.



45 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in Title
46 31, Chapter 7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

47 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2023.

