

By: Senator(s) Whaley, Hill, Branning

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2853
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE STATE-PURCHASED SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
2 SYSTEMS OR DRONES TO BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF
3 AMERICA BY AN AMERICAN-OWNED COMPANY AND TO POSSESS COLLISION
4 AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS; TO EXEMPT STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
5 FROM SUCH REQUIREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO GRANT A 10%
6 BID PREFERENCE IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT
7 SYSTEMS AND RELATED SERVICES TO MISSISSIPPI MANUFACTURERS AND
8 SERVICING COMPANIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

18 (b) "Domestic manufacturer" means a manufacturing
19 company incorporated and headquartered in the United States of
20 America and whose majority ownership is comprised of American
21 citizens and which manufactures drones at a facility in the United



22 States of America. If such company is owned by another entity,
23 that entity must also be an American company.

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

29 (d) "Collision avoidance system" means a system of
30 hardware or software designed to mitigate collision risk for
31 drones.

32 (2) Beginning March 1, 2024, all small unmanned aircraft
33 systems and drones purchased by the State of Mississippi or any
34 agency or political subdivision thereof shall be purchased
35 exclusively from a domestic manufacturer and shall possess
36 collision avoidance systems. All maintenance, repair and other
37 technical services on drones owned by the State of Mississippi or
38 any agency or political subdivision thereof shall be performed by
39 a domestic sUAS company. All infrastructure inspection services
40 requiring the use of sUAS and contracted for on behalf of the
41 State shall shall be performed using domestically manufactured
42 sUAS.

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



47 granted a ten percent (10%) bid preference over non-Mississippi
48 manufacturers.

49 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a
50 state institution of higher learning with a federally designated
51 research center when such institution is conducting research
52 regarding sUAS and related matters.

53 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in Title
54 31, Chapter 7, Mississippi Code of 1972.

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

