

**House File 703 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 703  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 217)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act prohibiting the use of unmanned vehicles to disturb,  
2 pursue, fish, or hunt wild animals and providing penalties.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 481A.125B Unmanned vehicle —  
2 prohibition — exemptions — civil penalties.

3 1. As used in this section:

4 a. "Radio control vehicle" means a vehicle, vessel, or  
5 other device that is operated remotely by a person using a  
6 transmitter to send radio waves to a receiver on the vehicle,  
7 vessel, or other device.

8 b. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means the same as defined in  
9 section 719.9.

10 c. "Unmanned vehicle" includes an unmanned aerial vehicle  
11 and a radio control vehicle.

12 2. A person shall not disturb, pursue, fish, or hunt or  
13 assist in the disturbing, pursuing, fishing, or hunting of a  
14 wild animal by using an unmanned vehicle.

15 3. This section does not apply in the following  
16 circumstances:

17 a. Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle to track a downed deer  
18 over land open to the public for hunting, property on which  
19 the person has received permission from the owner or tenant to  
20 operate an unmanned aerial vehicle, or property owned or leased  
21 by that person.

22 b. Use of an unmanned aerial vehicle operating for  
23 commercial use unrelated to hunting and fishing in  
24 compliance with federal aviation administration regulations,  
25 authorizations, or exemptions.

26 c. Use of an unmanned vehicle by the department for purposes  
27 of removing or controlling invasive species.

28 4. A person who violates this section is subject to a civil  
29 penalty that shall be established, assessed, and collected by  
30 the department by rule. Moneys collected from imposition of a  
31 civil penalty pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited  
32 in the state fish and game protection fund created in section  
33 456A.17. A civil penalty for a violation of this section shall  
34 not exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation.

35

EXPLANATION

H.F. 703

1           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
2           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3       This bill prohibits a person from using an unmanned vehicle,  
4 as defined in the bill, to disturb, pursue, fish, or hunt or  
5 assist in the disturbing, pursuing, fishing, or hunting of a  
6 wild animal. The bill does not prohibit a person from using  
7 an unmanned aerial vehicle to track a downed deer over land  
8 open to the public for hunting, property on which the person  
9 has received permission from the owner or tenant to operate an  
10 unmanned aerial vehicle, or property owned or leased by the  
11 person; does not prohibit the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle  
12 for commercial purposes unrelated to hunting and fishing  
13 as long as the use is in compliance with federal aviation  
14 administration regulations, authorizations, or exemptions;  
15 and does not prohibit the use of an unmanned vehicle by the  
16 department of natural resources for purposes of removing or  
17 controlling invasive species. A person who violates the bill  
18 is subject to a civil penalty established by the department by  
19 rule that shall not exceed \$10,000 for each violation.