

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2113

Introduced by Assembly Member McKinnor

February 18, 2026

An act to add Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 21750) to Division 9 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to aviation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2113, as introduced, McKinnor. Aviation: unmanned aircraft systems: ticketed entertainment events.

Existing federal law regulates aviation safety and airspace efficiency for manned and unmanned aircraft. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to impede police officers, firefighters, emergency medical, or other emergency personnel or military personnel in the performance of their duties by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle at the scene of an emergency. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to use an unmanned aircraft system to invade a person's privacy, as specified. Existing law prohibits operating an unmanned aircraft system on or above the grounds of a state prison, jail, or juvenile hall, as specified.

This bill would prohibit the operation of an unmanned aircraft system within 400 feet of, or above, a ticketed entertainment event, except under specified circumstances. The bill would make a violation of this prohibition an infraction punishable by a fine of \$500. By creating a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) New and emerging technologies, including unmanned aircraft
- 4 systems (drones), pose an evolving risk to public safety,
- 5 particularly at large-scale live entertainment and sporting events
- 6 involving dense crowds that are central to the state’s economy and
- 7 the enjoyment of its residents.
- 8 (b) The continued vitality of outdoor live entertainment and
- 9 major sporting events in the state depends on the ability to protect
- 10 attendees, artists, athletes, and event personnel from the risks posed
- 11 by unauthorized or unsafe drone operations.
- 12 (c) While federal authorities historically maintain jurisdiction
- 13 over national airspace and temporary flight restrictions, they may
- 14 not always be positioned to respond quickly to unauthorized drone
- 15 activity occurring at live entertainment venues, stadiums, or other
- 16 large public gatherings.
- 17 (d) In practice, many large events rely on the local familiarity
- 18 and venue-specific expertise of local law enforcement agencies to
- 19 oversee public safety operations. Empowering local law
- 20 enforcement to take appropriate and timely action in response to
- 21 unauthorized drone operations within restricted airspace will
- 22 enhance crowd safety and reduce the risk of harm.
- 23 (e) Effective communication among the Federal Aviation
- 24 Administration, state agencies, municipalities, and local law
- 25 enforcement is necessary to ensure that temporary flight restrictions
- 26 are properly requested, implemented, communicated, and enforced.
- 27 (f) The state is home to marquee events and upcoming global
- 28 gatherings, including the 2028 Summer Olympics, 2026 FIFA
- 29 World Cup, Super Bowl LX, and major live entertainment festivals
- 30 such as Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, BottleRock
- 31 Napa Valley, La Onda, Stagecoach Festival, Beyond Wonderland
- 32 SoCal, Aftershock Festival, and numerous other events that attract
- 33 hundreds of thousands of attendees annually.
- 34 (g) State action is necessary to protect the public safety and the
- 35 economic ecosystem of outdoor live events and to preserve cultural

1 relevance of California outdoor venues. Establishing clear
2 regulation of drones and comprehensive protocols for local law
3 enforcement ensures the long-term vitality of outdoor live events
4 in the state.

5 SEC. 2. Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 21750) is added
6 to Division 9 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

7
8
9

PART 1.5. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

10 21750. For purposes of this part, the following definitions
11 apply:

12 (a) “Ticketed entertainment event” means any music, sporting,
13 or performing arts event held in a location with gated entries or
14 barriers that prevent access to the general public and in which a
15 revocable license that has been issued by an owner, operator, or
16 lessee of that property is required for attendance at the event.

17 (b) (1) “Unmanned aircraft system” means a powered, aerial
18 vehicle that meets all of the following requirements:

19 (A) It does not carry a human operator and is operated without
20 the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the
21 aircraft.

22 (B) It uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift.

23 (C) It can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely.

24 (D) It can be expendable or recoverable.

25 (2) An unmanned aircraft system does not include a satellite.

26 21752. (a) It is unlawful to operate an unmanned aircraft
27 system within 400 feet of, or above, a ticketed entertainment event.

28 (b) Subdivision (a) does not apply to a person who operates an
29 unmanned aircraft system under any of the following
30 circumstances:

31 (1) The person has obtained consent by any person with legal
32 authority over the ticketed entertainment event.

33 (2) The person is authorized by federal regulations to operate
34 an unmanned aircraft system and is operating that system in a
35 lawful manner and consistent with federal regulations.

36 (3) The person is an employee of the property where the ticketed
37 entertainment event is held and is conducting official business.

38 (4) The person is an employee of a water, sewer, electrical,
39 telephone, cable, or other regulated utility service provider and is
40 conducting official business.

1 (5) The person is an owner of private property who is operating
2 an unmanned aircraft system that they own above that property,
3 provided that the operation is consistent with federal regulations
4 and is not used for commercial purposes, to convey or
5 communicate a message, or to record for purposes of commercial
6 broadcasting or publication, monitor, or otherwise interfere in any
7 way with the ticketed entertainment event.

8 (c) A violation of this section is an infraction. Each violation
9 of this section shall be punishable by a fine of five hundred dollars
10 (\$500).

11 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
12 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
13 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
14 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
15 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
16 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
17 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
18 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
19 Constitution.