

1-1 By: Birdwell S.B. No. 1197  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 10, 2025; February 28, 2025,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs;  
 1-4 April 1, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,  
 1-5 Nays 0; April 1, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Hancock	X			
1-8 Parker			X	
1-9 Eckhardt	X			
1-10 Gutierrez			X	
1-11 Hagenbuch	X			
1-12 Hall	X			
1-13 Menéndez	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the operation of an unmanned aircraft over a spaceport;  
 1-18 creating a criminal offense.  
 1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-20 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 42.15, Penal Code, is  
 1-21 amended to read as follows:  
 1-22 Sec. 42.15. OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OVER AIRPORT,  
 1-23 ~~[OR]~~ MILITARY INSTALLATION, OR SPACEPORT.  
 1-24 SECTION 2. Section 42.15(a), Penal Code, is amended by  
 1-25 adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:  
 1-26 (3) "Spaceport" means any property or facility that  
 1-27 is:  
 1-28 (A) used for the launch, landing, or recovery of  
 1-29 spacecraft, as defined by Section 507.001, Local Government Code;  
 1-30 and  
 1-31 (B) licensed by the Federal Aviation  
 1-32 Administration or operated by a spaceport development corporation  
 1-33 under Chapter 507, Local Government Code.  
 1-34 SECTION 3. Sections 42.15(b) and (c), Penal Code, are  
 1-35 amended to read as follows:  
 1-36 (b) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally  
 1-37 or knowingly:  
 1-38 (1) operates an unmanned aircraft over an airport,  
 1-39 ~~[or]~~ military installation, or spaceport;  
 1-40 (2) allows an unmanned aircraft to make contact with  
 1-41 an airport, ~~[or]~~ military installation, or spaceport, including any  
 1-42 person or object on the premises of or within the airport, ~~[or]~~  
 1-43 military installation, or spaceport; or  
 1-44 (3) operates an unmanned aircraft in a manner that  
 1-45 interferes with the operations of or causes a disturbance to an  
 1-46 airport, ~~[or]~~ military installation, or spaceport.  
 1-47 (c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that  
 1-48 the conduct described by Subsection (b) was engaged in by:  
 1-49 (1) the federal government, this state, or a  
 1-50 governmental entity;  
 1-51 (2) a person under contract with or otherwise acting  
 1-52 under the direction or on behalf of the federal government, this  
 1-53 state, or a governmental entity;  
 1-54 (3) a law enforcement agency;  
 1-55 (4) a person under contract with or otherwise acting  
 1-56 under the direction or on behalf of a law enforcement agency;  
 1-57 (5) an owner or operator of the airport, ~~[or]~~ military  
 1-58 installation, or spaceport;  
 1-59 (6) a person under contract with or otherwise acting  
 1-60 under the direction or on behalf of an owner or operator of the  
 1-61 airport, ~~[or]~~ military installation, or spaceport;

2-1 (7) a person who has the prior written or electronic  
2-2 authorization of:

2-3 (A) the owner or operator of the airport, ~~or~~  
2-4 military installation, or spaceport; or

2-5 (B) the Federal Aviation Administration; or

2-6 (8) the owner or occupant of the property on which the  
2-7 airport, ~~or~~ military installation, or spaceport is located or a  
2-8 person who has the prior written consent of the owner or occupant of  
2-9 that property.

2-10 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
2-11 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
2-12 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
2-13 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
2-14 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
2-15 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
2-16 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
2-17 before that date.

2-18 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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