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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3517

- 03/23/2016 Authored by Newberger and Howe
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Policy and Finance
- 03/30/2016 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy
- 04/01/2016 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance
- 04/07/2016 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; prohibiting the use of unmanned aerial vehicles near
1.3 public safety helicopters; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 609.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[609.5001] INTERFERING WITH PUBLIC SAFETY HELICOPTERS;**
1.7 **UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the terms in this
1.9 subdivision have the meanings given them.

1.10 (b) "Public safety helicopter" is a helicopter operated by a law enforcement agency,
1.11 fire department, or emergency medical service provider.

1.12 (c) "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means a powered, aerial vehicle that:

1.13 (1) does not carry a human operator;

1.14 (2) can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely;

1.15 (3) uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;

1.16 (4) can be expendable or recoverable; and

1.17 (5) can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload.

1.18 Subd. 2. **Crime.** Whoever knowingly operates an unmanned aerial vehicle within
1.19 one mile of a public safety helicopter during operations is guilty of a crime and shall
1.20 be punished as provided in subdivision 3.

1.21 Subd. 3. **Penalty.** (a) A person who violates subdivision 2 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

1.22 (b) A person who violates subdivision 2 a second or subsequent time is guilty of a
1.23 gross misdemeanor.

2.1 Subd. 4. **Exception.** A person does not violate subdivision 2 if the person receives
2.2 permission to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle within one mile of a public safety
2.3 helicopter during operations from the law enforcement agency, fire department, or
2.4 emergency medical service provider operating the public safety helicopter.