

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1396

02/24/2025 Authored by Witte, Duran, Stier, Novotny, Repinski and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

03/27/2025 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law

04/10/2025 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register as Amended
Read for the Second Time

05/19/2025 Pursuant to Rule 4.20, returned to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to public safety; expanding the permitted uses of unmanned aerial vehicles
1.3 by law enforcement; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 626.19,
1.4 subdivision 3.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 626.19, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Authorized use.** A law enforcement agency may use a UAV:

1.8 (1) during or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death
1.9 or bodily harm to a person;

1.10 (2) to document evidence that is at imminent risk of destruction;

1.11 (3) over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or
1.12 bystanders;

1.13 (4) to assist in the lawful pursuit of a suspect who: (i) law enforcement has probable
1.14 cause to believe has committed either a crime against persons or a felony; and (ii) is fleeing
1.15 from law enforcement;

1.16 (3) (5) to counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if
1.17 the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk;

1.18 (4) (6) to prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to
1.19 facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these
1.20 disasters;

1.21 (5) (7) to conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event;

2.1 ~~(6)~~(8) to collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal
2.2 activity;

2.3 ~~(7)~~(9) to collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly
2.4 collision occurring on a public road;

2.5 ~~(8)~~(10) over a private area with the written consent of the occupant or a public area for
2.6 officer training or public relations purposes; ~~and~~

2.7 ~~(9)~~(11) for purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity
2.8 provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement
2.9 agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use; and

2.10 (12) to facilitate the active search for a missing person that involves risk of death or
2.11 bodily harm to a person.