

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2630

(SENATE AUTHORS: ABELER and Hayden)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/14/2016	5023	Introduction and first reading Referred to Judiciary

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) does not carry a human operator;

(2) can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely;

(3) uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;

(4) can be expendable or recoverable; and

(5) can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload.

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

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

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