



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 318
[2015 Assembly Bill 670]

**Drones Prohibited Over
Correctional Institutions**

2015 Wisconsin Act 670 (“the Act”) prohibits a person from operating a drone¹ over a correctional institution, including any grounds of the institution. Under the Act, a “correctional institution” means any state or local facility that incarcerates or detains any adult accused of, charged with, convicted of, or sentenced for any crime. This includes a state prison, as well as a county jail and a house of correction. A person who violates this prohibition may be required to forfeit not more than \$5,000. The Act also requires that a law enforcement officer investigating an alleged violation of this prohibition seize and transfer to the Department of Corrections or authority in charge of the correctional institution any photograph, motion picture, other visual representation, or data that represents a visual image that was created or recorded by a drone during an alleged violation.

Effective date: This Act took effect on April 1, 2016.

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¹ The Act defines a “drone” to mean “a powered, aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, and can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely. A drone may be expendable or recoverable.”

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.