
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 52
2021 Senate Bill 237

**Operation of Drones Over
Correctional Facilities**

BACKGROUND

Prior law prohibited any person from operating a drone over a correctional institution, including any grounds of the institution. A person violating this prohibition may be subject to a civil forfeiture penalty of up to \$5,000.

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 52

2021 Wisconsin Act 52 creates an exception to this prohibition. Under the act, a person may operate a drone over the grounds of an institution that is a state facility if the person has express authorization from the secretary of the Department of Corrections, or his or her designee, or over an institution that is a county facility, if the person has express authorization from the sheriff of the county, or his or her designee.

Effective date: The act took effect on June 24, 2021.

AO:AM:jal