
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 211

Assembly Amendment 1

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 211

State law prohibits anyone, including the Department of Corrections, from operating a drone over a correctional institution or the grounds of a correctional institution. 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. The definition covers state institutions, as well as county facilities such as jails and houses of correction.

Assembly Bill 211 creates an exception that allows operation of a drone over a correctional institution or grounds with the express authorization of the Secretary of Corrections or his or her designee (hereinafter “DOC”).

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 clarifies the official who may authorize use of a drone over a state facility versus a county facility. The amendment provides that a person may operate a drone over a correctional institution that is a state facility with express authorization of DOC, and over a county facility with the express authorization of the sheriff or his or her designee.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Callahan on April 26, 2021. On May 20, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Corrections recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

KBO:ksm