

Public Hearing on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles  
Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9:00AM  
Majority Policy Committee  
Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

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The Joint State Government Commission is the primary non-partisan, bicameral research agency serving the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

Senate Resolution 238, adopted on December 9, 2015, directs the Commission to study the use of “drones”, referred to as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The tasks set forth in Senate Resolution 238 includes providing in-depth research regarding:

1. The use of UAS by State and local agencies, including law enforcement agencies;
2. Input from all key stakeholders, including all State agencies authorized under the executive branch and all county and municipal agencies, including law enforcement and school districts;
3. The technological capabilities of UAS, including its availability and capability;
4. How and where UAS technology can be used;
5. The current and planned use of UAS technology by State and local agencies, including law enforcement; and
6. The use of UAS technology by other state and local agencies, including law enforcement, outside of this Commonwealth.

The Federal Aviation Administration divides UAS operations between three categories; public operations, civil operations, and model aircraft (recreational use). The Commission will place its focus on public operations.

To date, the Commission has contacted every cabinet agency and is working to gather information on their use of UAS. The commission has been in contact with the Mount Carmel Township Police Department, a leader in UAS technology and the sole law enforcement agency certified by the Federal Aviation Administration on the East Coast.

Per Senate Resolution 238, a final report on the use of unmanned aircraft systems will be submitted to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2017.

If you are interested in providing information to the Commission regarding Unmanned Aircraft Systems my contact information is provided below.

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