

2021 -- H 6298

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF
POLICE ROBOT TECHNOLOGY

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Williams, Henries, McGaw, Batista, and Potter

Date Introduced: May 05, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 160

4 PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF POLICE ROBOT TECHNOLOGY

5 **42-160-1. Definitions.**

6 When used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

7 (1) "Law enforcement officer" means any permanently employed city or town police
8 officer, state police officer, or peace officer as defined in § 12-7-21.

9 (2) "Robot" means any machine that can collect information, process it, and use it to act
10 upon the world and is operated either autonomously by computers or by an individual remotely.

11 (3) "Police robot dog" means any machine, that looks similar in appearance to a dog, that
12 can collect information, process it, and use it to act upon the world and is operated either
13 autonomously by computers or by an individual remotely.

14 (4) "UAVs" is an acronym that means unmanned aerial vehicles.

15 (5) "Unmanned aerial vehicles" means an aircraft that is navigated without a pilot on board.

16 (6) "Weapon" means a device designed to inflict death or serious physical injury.

17 **42-160-2. Use of robots prohibited.**

18 (a) No law enforcement officer shall, while carrying out their duties, whether on-duty or

1 off-duty, authorize the use, attempted use or threatened use of a robot or UAVs armed with any
2 weapon.

3 (b) No law enforcement officers shall, while carrying out their duties, whether on-duty or
4 off-duty, authorize the use, attempted use or threatened use of a robot or UAVs in any manner that
5 is substantially likely to cause death or serious physical injury, regardless of whether or not the
6 robot or UAV is armed with a weapon.

7 (c) No law enforcement officer shall, while carrying out their duties, whether on-duty or
8 off-duty, authorize the use, attempted use or threatened use of an unarmed robot or UAVs.

9 (d) No law enforcement officer shall, while carrying out their duties, whether on-duty or
10 off-duty, authorize the use, attempted use or threatened use of a police robot dog.

11 (e) No department that employs peace officers shall receive or accept any public or private
12 financial funding for the purchase or procurement of any robots, UAVs, and police robot dogs.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF
POLICE ROBOT TECHNOLOGY

- 1 This act would prohibit any on-duty or off-duty law enforcement officer from utilizing any
- 2 robot, police robot dog, or UAV, whether armed or unarmed, within the scope of their employment.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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