

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2014
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2014
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1524

**Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Ammiano)**

January 17, 2014

An act to add Division 16.8 (commencing with Section 39100) to the Vehicle Code, relating to unmanned aircraft.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1524, as amended, Waldron. Unmanned aircraft: identification requirements.

Existing federal law, the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and of Reform Act of 2012, provides for the integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones, into the national airspace system by September 30, 2015. Existing federal law requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to develop and implement operational and certification requirements for the operation of public unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system by December 31, 2015. Existing federal law also prohibits a person from operating a United States registered aircraft unless that aircraft displays specified nationality and registration marks.

This bill would require, beginning January 1, 2015, a person or *public or private* entity that owns or operates an unmanned aircraft, as defined, to place specified identifying information or digitally store identifying information on that unmanned aircraft. The bill would exempt model aircraft, as defined, from that requirement. The bill would make a person

or entity that violates that provision liable for a civil fine not to exceed \$2,500. The bill would authorize the Attorney General, a district attorney, county counsel, or a city attorney to bring an action to recover that fine, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Division 16.8 (commencing with Section 39100)
2 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

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4 DIVISION 16.8 UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

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6 39100. For the purposes of this division, both of the following
7 definitions shall apply:

8 (a) "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft that is operated
9 without the possibility of direct human intervention from within
10 or on the aircraft.

11 (b) "Model aircraft" means an unmanned aircraft that is all of
12 the following:

- 13 (1) Capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere.
- 14 (2) Flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the
15 aircraft.
- 16 (3) Flown strictly for hobby or recreational purposes.
- 17 (4) Does not weigh more than 55 pounds.

18 39101. (a) Beginning January 1, 2015, a person or *public or*
19 *private* entity that owns or operates an unmanned aircraft that is
20 not a model aircraft within this state shall do ~~either~~ *any* of the
21 following:

22 (1) Legibly and permanently affix, stamp, or mark on the
23 unmanned aircraft, in a size that can be read by the naked eye
24 without the use of magnification, identifying information that
25 indicates each of the following:

- 26 (A) The name of the owner of the unmanned aircraft.
- 27 (B) The residential or business address of the owner of the
28 unmanned aircraft.
- 29 (C) The telephone number of the owner of the unmanned
30 aircraft.

1 (2) Store the information specified in paragraph (1) in a digital
2 format on the unmanned aircraft. The digital information shall be
3 stored in a manner that is readily accessible and retrievable.

4 (3) *Legibly and permanently affix, stamp, or mark on the*
5 *unmanned aircraft, in a size that can be read by the naked eye*
6 *without the use of magnification, an address for an active Internet*
7 *Web site that lists the information specified in paragraph (1).*

8 (b) If a person or *public or private* entity that owns or operates
9 an unmanned aircraft affixes, stamps, or marks on the unmanned
10 aircraft pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), the person or
11 *public or private* entity shall do so in a way that does not to modify
12 or confuse the nationality or registration marks required by the
13 Federal Aviation Administration.

14 39102. A person or *public or private* entity that violates the
15 provisions of Section 39101 shall be liable for a civil fine not to
16 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). A proceeding
17 to recover the civil fines specified in this section may be brought
18 in any court of competent jurisdiction by the Attorney General, a
19 district attorney, county counsel, or a city attorney. Revenue from
20 any fines collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited into
21 the general fund for the city, county, or city and county, that
22 brought the case, or, if brought by the Attorney General, the
23 General Fund of this state.

24 39103. This division is not intended to conflict with or
25 supersede federal law, including rules and regulations of the
26 Federal Aviation Administration.