

LEGAL ALERT

Drone Regulation Now Exclusive Power of The State of Illinois

The General Assembly has amended the Illinois Aeronautics Act to provide that the power to regulate unmanned aircraft systems (“Drones”) is exclusively reserved to the State of Illinois. The Act provides:

“No unit of local government (home rule and non-home rule), may enact an ordinance or resolution to regulate unmanned aircraft systems.”

Why is Local Control Limited?

- The General Assembly has concluded that navigable airspace free from inconsistent local restrictions is essential to the maintenance of a safe and sound air transportation system.
- Preemption of local control is designed to ensure the legal operation of unmanned aircraft systems in this State, while permitting drone operators to use drones with the least possible restriction, consistent with their safety and with the safety and the rights of others, and in compliance with federal rules and regulations.

Drone operations remain subject to FAA regulations regarding lawful registration, training and in-flight operation of small commercial, municipal recreational and hobbyist drones, as well as larger scale UAS.

The Act became effective on August 3, 2018.

The full text of Public Act 100-735 is available at:

[Public Act 100-735](#)

For any questions or comments you might have regarding this newsletter, please feel free to contact:

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