

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 73

To ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 27, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. HAWLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Security  
5 Drone Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The term  
9 “covered foreign entity” means an entity included on

1 a list developed and maintained by the Federal Ac-  
2 quisition Security Council. This list will include enti-  
3 ties in the following categories:

4 (A) An entity included on the Consolidated  
5 Screening List.

6 (B) Any entity that is subject to  
7 extrajudicial direction from a foreign govern-  
8 ment, as determined by the Secretary of Home-  
9 land Security.

10 (C) Any entity the Secretary of Homeland  
11 Security, in coordination with the Director of  
12 National Intelligence and the Secretary of De-  
13 fense, determines poses a national security risk.

14 (D) Any entity domiciled in the People's  
15 Republic of China or subject to influence or  
16 control by the Government of the People Re-  
17 public of China or the Communist Party of the  
18 People's Republic of China, as determined by  
19 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

20 (E) Any subsidiary or affiliate of an entity  
21 described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

22 (2) COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—

23 The term “covered unmanned aircraft system” has  
24 the meaning given the term “unmanned aircraft sys-

1       tem” in section 44801 of title 49, United States  
2       Code.

3       **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT OF COVERED UN-**  
4                               **MANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM COV-**  
5                               **ERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under sub-  
7       sections (b) through (f), the head of an executive agency  
8       may not procure any covered unmanned aircraft system  
9       that are manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign  
10      entity, which includes associated elements (consisting of  
11      communication links and the components that control the  
12      unmanned aircraft) that are required for the operator to  
13      operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace sys-  
14      tem. The Federal Acquisition Security Council, in coordi-  
15      nation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall develop  
16      and update a list of associated elements.

17      (b) EXEMPTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
18      rity, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General  
19      are exempt from the restriction under subsection (a) if the  
20      operation or procurement—

21                   (1) is for the sole purposes of research, evalua-  
22                   tion, training, testing, or analysis for—

23                               (A) electronic warfare;

24                               (B) information warfare operations;

1 (C) development of UAS or counter-UAS  
2 technology;

3 (D) counterterrorism or counterintelligence  
4 activities; or

5 (E) Federal criminal or national security  
6 investigations, including forensic examinations;  
7 and

8 (2) is required in the national interest of the  
9 United States.

10 (c) FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
11 OF EXCELLENCE FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
12 EXEMPTION.—The Secretary of Transportation, in con-  
13 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is ex-  
14 empt from the restriction under subsection (a) if the oper-  
15 ation or procurement is for the sole purposes of research,  
16 evaluation, training, testing, or analysis for the Federal  
17 Aviation Administration’s Alliance for System Safety of  
18 UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) Center of  
19 Excellence (COE) for Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

20 (d) NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
21 EXEMPTION.—The National Transportation Safety Board  
22 (NTSB), in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland  
23 Security, is exempt from the restriction under subsection  
24 (a) if the operation or procurement is necessary for the  
25 sole purpose of conducting safety investigations.

1 (e) NATIONAL OCEANIC ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-  
2 TION EXEMPTION.—The Administrator of the National  
3 Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in con-  
4 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is ex-  
5 empt from the restriction under subsection (a) if the oper-  
6 ation or procurement is necessary for the sole purpose of  
7 marine or atmospheric science or management.

8 (f) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may  
9 waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case-by-  
10 case basis—

11 (1) with the approval of the Secretary of Home-  
12 land Security or the Secretary of Defense; and

13 (2) upon notification to Congress.

14 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OF COVERED UN-**  
15 **MANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM COV-**  
16 **ERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.**

17 (a) PROHIBITION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that  
19 is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this  
20 Act, no Federal department or agency may operate  
21 a covered unmanned aircraft system manufactured  
22 or assembled by a covered foreign entity.

23 (2) APPLICABILITY TO CONTRACTED SERV-  
24 ICES.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) applies  
25 to any covered unmanned aircraft systems that are

1 being used by any executive agency through the  
2 method of contracting for the services of covered un-  
3 manned aircraft systems.

4 (b) EXEMPTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
5 rity, the Secretary of Defense, and the Attorney General  
6 are exempt from the restriction under subsection (a) if the  
7 operation or procurement—

8 (1) is for the sole purposes of research, evalua-  
9 tion, training, testing, or analysis for—

10 (A) electronic warfare;

11 (B) information warfare operations;

12 (C) development of UAS or counter-UAS  
13 technology;

14 (D) counterterrorism or counterintelligence  
15 activities; or

16 (E) Federal criminal or national security  
17 investigations, including forensic examinations;  
18 and

19 (2) is required in the national interest of the  
20 United States.

21 (c) FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
22 OF EXCELLENCE FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
23 EXEMPTION.—The Secretary of Transportation, in con-  
24 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is ex-  
25 empt from the restriction under subsection (a) if the oper-

1 ation or procurement is for the sole purposes of research,  
2 evaluation, training, testing, or analysis for the Federal  
3 Aviation Administration's Alliance for System Safety of  
4 UAE through Research Excellence (ASSURE) Center of  
5 Excellence (COE) for Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

6 (d) NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
7 EXEMPTION.—The National Transportation Safety Board  
8 (NTSB), in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland  
9 Security, is exempt from the restriction under subsection  
10 (a) if the operation or procurement is necessary for the  
11 sole purpose of conducting safety investigations.

12 (e) NATIONAL OCEANIC ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-  
13 TION EXEMPTION.—The Administrator of the National  
14 Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in con-  
15 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is ex-  
16 empt from the restriction under subsection (a) if the oper-  
17 ation or procurement is necessary for the sole purpose of  
18 marine or atmospheric science or management.

19 (f) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may  
20 waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case-by-  
21 case basis—

22 (1) with the approval of the Secretary of Home-  
23 land Security or the Secretary of Defense; and

24 (2) upon notification to Congress.

1 (g) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—Not later than  
2 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
3 Secretary of Homeland Security shall prescribe regula-  
4 tions or guidance to implement this section.

5 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR**  
6 **PURCHASES AND OPERATION OF COVERED**  
7 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM COV-**  
8 **ERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 2  
10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, except  
11 as provided in subsection (b), no Federal funds awarded  
12 through a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, or  
13 otherwise made available may be used—

14 (1) to purchase a covered unmanned aircraft  
15 system, or a system to counter unmanned aircraft  
16 systems, that is manufactured or assembled by a  
17 covered foreign entity; or

18 (2) in connection with the operation of such a  
19 drone or unmanned aircraft system.

20 (b) EXEMPTION.—A Federal department or agency  
21 is exempt from the restriction under subsection (a) if—

22 (1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agree-  
23 ment was awarded prior to the date of the enact-  
24 ment of this Act; or



1           (2) the operation or procurement is for the sole  
2 purposes of research, evaluation, training, testing, or  
3 analysis, as determined by the Secretary of Home-  
4 land Security, the Secretary of Defense, or the At-  
5 torney General, for—

6           (A) electronic warfare;

7           (B) information warfare operations;

8           (C) development of UAS or counter-UAS  
9 technology;

10          (D) counterterrorism or counterintelligence  
11 activities; or

12          (E) Federal criminal or national security  
13 investigations, including forensic examinations;  
14 or

15          (F) the safe integration of UAS in the na-  
16 tional airspace (as determined in consultation  
17 with the Secretary of Transportation); and

18          (3) is required in the national interest of the  
19 United States.

20          (c) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may  
21 waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case-by-  
22 case basis—

23           (1) with the approval of the Secretary of Home-  
24 land Security or the Secretary of Defense; and

25           (2) upon notification to Congress.

1 (d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisi-  
3 tion Regulatory Council shall prescribe regulations or  
4 guidance, as necessary, to implement the requirements of  
5 this section pertaining to Federal contracts.

6 **SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON USE OF GOVERNMENT-ISSUED**  
7 **PURCHASE CARDS TO PURCHASE COVERED**  
8 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM COV-**  
9 **ERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.**

10 Effective immediately, Government-issued Purchase  
11 Cards may not be used to procure any covered unmanned  
12 aircraft system from a covered foreign entity.

13 **SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING INVENTORIES OF COV-**  
14 **ERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS FROM**  
15 **COVERED FOREIGN ENTITIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective immediately, all execu-  
17 tive agencies must account for existing inventories of cov-  
18 ered unmanned aircraft systems manufactured or assem-  
19 bled by a covered foreign entity in their personal property  
20 accounting systems, regardless of the original procurement  
21 cost, or the purpose of procurement due to the special  
22 monitoring and accounting measures necessary to track  
23 the items' capabilities.

24 (b) CLASSIFIED TRACKING.—Due to the sensitive na-  
25 ture of missions and operations conducted by the United

1 States Government, inventory data related to covered un-  
2 manned aircraft systems manufactured or assembled by  
3 a covered foreign entity may be tracked at a classified  
4 level.

5 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—The Department of Defense and  
6 Department of Homeland Security may exclude from the  
7 full inventory process, covered unmanned aircraft systems  
8 that are deemed expendable due to mission risk such as  
9 recovery issues or that are one-time-use covered unmanned  
10 aircraft due to requirements and low cost.

11 **SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**

12 Not later than 275 days after the date of the enact-  
13 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
14 States shall submit to Congress a report on the amount  
15 of commercial off-the-shelf drones and covered unmanned  
16 aircraft systems procured by Federal departments and  
17 agencies from covered foreign entities.

18 **SEC. 9. GOVERNMENT-WIDE POLICY FOR PROCUREMENT**  
19 **OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Of-  
22 fice of Management and Budget, in coordination with the  
23 Department of Homeland Security, Department of Trans-  
24 portation, the Department of Justice, and other Depart-  
25 ments as determined by the Director of the Office of Man-

1 agement and Budget, and in consultation with the Na-  
2 tional Institute of Standards and Technology, shall estab-  
3 lish a government-wide policy for the procurement of  
4 UAS—

5 (1) for non-Department of Defense and non-in-  
6 telligence community operations; and

7 (2) through grants and cooperative agreements  
8 entered into with non-Federal entities.

9 (b) INFORMATION SECURITY.—The policy developed  
10 under subsection (a) shall include the following specifica-  
11 tions, which to the extent practicable, shall be based on  
12 industry standards and technical guidance from the Na-  
13 tional Institute of Standards and Technology, to address  
14 the risks associated with processing, storing and transmit-  
15 ting Federal information in a UAS:

16 (1) Protections to ensure controlled access of  
17 UAS.

18 (2) Protecting software, firmware, and hard-  
19 ware by ensuring changes to UAS are properly man-  
20 aged, including by ensuring UAS can be updated  
21 using a secure, controlled, and configurable mecha-  
22 nism.

23 (3) Cryptographically securing sensitive col-  
24 lected, stored, and transmitted data, including prop-

1 er handling of privacy data and other controlled un-  
2 classified information.

3 (4) Appropriate safeguards necessary to protect  
4 sensitive information, including during and after use  
5 of UAS.

6 (5) Appropriate data security to ensure that  
7 data is not transmitted to or stored in non-approved  
8 locations.

9 (6) The ability to opt out of the uploading,  
10 downloading, or transmitting of data that is not re-  
11 quired by law or regulation and an ability to choose  
12 with whom and where information is shared when it  
13 is required.

14 (c) REQUIREMENT.—The policy developed under sub-  
15 section (a) shall reflect an appropriate risk-based ap-  
16 proach to information security related to use of UAS.

17 (d) REVISION OF ACQUISITION REGULATIONS.—Not  
18 later than 180 days after the date on which the policy  
19 required under subsection (a) is issued—

20 (1) the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council  
21 shall revise the Federal Acquisition Regulation, as  
22 necessary, to implement the policy; and

23 (2) any Federal department or agency or other  
24 Federal entity not subject to, or not subject solely  
25 to, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall revise

1 applicable policy, guidance, or regulations, as nec-  
2 essary, to implement the policy.

3 (e) EXEMPTION.—In developing the policy required  
4 under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Man-  
5 agement and Budget shall incorporate an exemption to the  
6 policy for the following reasons:

7 (1) In the case of procurement for the purposes  
8 of training, testing, or analysis for—

9 (A) electronic warfare; or

10 (B) information warfare operations.

11 (2) In the case of researching UAS technology,  
12 including testing, evaluation, research, or develop-  
13 ment of technology to counter UAS.

14 (3) In the case of a head of the procuring de-  
15 partment or agency determining, in writing, that no  
16 product that complies with the information security  
17 requirements described in subsection (b) is capable  
18 of fulfilling mission critical performance require-  
19 ments, and such determination—

20 (A) may not be delegated below the level of  
21 the Deputy Secretary of the procuring depart-  
22 ment or agency;

23 (B) shall specify—

24 (i) the quantity of end items to which  
25 the waiver applies, the procurement value

1 of which may not exceed \$50,000 per waiver;  
2 er; and

3 (ii) the time period over which the  
4 waiver applies, which shall not exceed 3  
5 years;

6 (C) shall be reported to the Office of Man-  
7 agement and Budget following issuance of such  
8 a determination; and

9 (D) not later than 30 days after the date  
10 on which the determination is made, shall be  
11 provided to the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
12 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate  
13 and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of  
14 the House of Representatives.

15 **SEC. 10. STUDY.**

16 (a) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Not later than 3 years  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director  
18 of the Office of Management and Budget shall seek to  
19 enter into a contract with a federally funded research and  
20 development center under which the center will conduct  
21 a study of—

22 (1) the current and future unmanned aircraft  
23 system global and domestic market;

1           (2) the ability of the unmanned aircraft system  
2 domestic market to keep pace with technological ad-  
3 vancements across the industry;

4           (3) the ability of domestically made unmanned  
5 aircraft systems to meet the network security and  
6 data protection requirements of the national security  
7 enterprise;

8           (4) the extent to which unmanned aircraft sys-  
9 tem component parts, such as the parts described in  
10 section 3, are made domestically; and

11           (5) an assessment of the economic impact, in-  
12 cluding cost, of excluding the use of foreign-made  
13 UAS for use across the Federal Government.

14       (b) SUBMISSION TO OMB.—Upon completion of the  
15 study in subsection (a), the federally funded research and  
16 development center shall submit the study to the Director  
17 of the Office of Management and Budget.

18       (c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30  
19 days after the date on which the Director of the Office  
20 of Management and Budget receives the study under sub-  
21 section (b), the Director shall submit the study to—

22           (1) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
23 Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on  
24 Intelligence of the Senate; and



1           (2) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
2           the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the  
3           Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the  
4           House of Representatives.

5 **SEC. 11. SUNSET.**

6           Sections 3, 4, and 5 shall cease to have effect on the  
7           date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of  
8           this Act.

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