

NATIONAL DRONE AND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY INITIATIVE ACT OF 2022
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Act to ensure United States leadership in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and advanced air mobility (AAM) by supporting UAS research and development (R&D). It would provide for a coordinated Federal initiative across federal research agencies to accelerate UAS civilian R&D for economic and national security.

Establishes a National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Initiative to Coordinate UAS Activities

The bill establishes the National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Initiative coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The bill creates an Initiative Office, an Interagency Committee to support the Initiative, and an Advisory Committee to advise the President and the Initiative Office.

National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Research Institutes

The bill authorizes a network of Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Institutes to be supported across federal research agencies and mission agencies. The bill directs NASA to establish a program to award financial assistance to plan, establish, and support National Drone and Advanced Air Mobility Research Institutes and the network for Institutes to be known as the “Drone Leadership Network” to coordinate cross-cutting R&D carried out by the Institutes.

National Institute of Standards and Technology Activities

This bill supports activities at NIST for UAS; and directs NIST to create voluntary data sharing arrangements; and directs NIST to establish a prize competition. The bill also establishes a UAS Pilot Program through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program; directs a survey on MEP capabilities to domestically manufacture UAS; and directs the Manufacturing USA Program to prioritize UAS manufacturing R&D.

National Science Foundation Activities

The bill supports research activities at NSF for UAS, the development of a workforce to support the UAS industry and directs NSF to support public-private partnerships for domestic development of UAS.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Activities

The bill directs NASA to direct R&D and other activities to facilitate the safe integration of UAS into the National Airspace System. The bill also directs NASA to establish a national program to carry out UAS technology competitions for high school and undergraduate level students.

Department of Energy Activities

This bill directs DOE to carry out a RD&D program to advance UAS technologies, capabilities, and workforce needs to improve the reliability of UAS implementation methods relevant to the mission of DOE.

Department of Homeland Security Activities

The bill supports activities at DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) for UAS and counter-UAS (C-UAS). This bill establishes a C-UAS center of excellence to carry out R&D that improves C-UAS activities.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Activities

This bill directs NOAA to carry out R&D to advance UAS and unmanned maritime systems (UMS) technologies, capabilities, and to enhance the deployment of and data collected by UAS and UMS.

Federal Aviation Administration Activities

This bill supports research activities at FAA for UAS. This bill also authorizes University UAS Centers to carry out R&D on AAM and UAS integration into the national airspace system.

Limitation

This bill limits the use of foreign UAS, with the exception of C-UAS capabilities.