

State of Wisconsin



2025 Assembly Bill 768

Date of enactment:
Date of publication*:

2025 WISCONSIN ACT

AN ACT to renumber 114.045 (1); to renumber and amend 114.045 (3); to create 114.045 (1) (b) and 114.045 (3) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** operation of drones over certain utility facilities and providing a penalty.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 114.045 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 114.045 (1) (a).

SECTION 2. 114.045 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

114.045 (1) (b) 1. In this paragraph:

a. "Facility" does not include an electric transmission line or any other equipment or structure used solely to carry electric power or another product.

b. "Management" means operations related to the generation or delivery of the service or product provided. "Management" does not include sales of the service or product or administration of the entity providing the service or product.

1m. Except as provided in subd. 2. or 3., no person may operate a drone, as defined in s. 941.292 (1), at an altitude of less than 300 feet, over or within 500 feet of a parcel on which of any of the following facilities are located:

a. A water reclamation facility or a building designed for the purpose of water reclamation conveyance management.

b. A gas or electric power plant, generating station, electric substation, natural gas gate station, or storage facility or a building designed for the purpose of gas or electric power management.

c. A telecommunications carrier plant or a building designed for the purpose of telecommunications management.

cm. A facility of a provider of Internet service, a video service provider, as defined in s. 196.01 (12r), or a provider of cable service, as defined in s. 196.01 (1p).

d. A public water system facility or a building designed for the purpose of public water system management.

e. A petroleum refinery or a building or other facility designed for the management of petroleum refining, including a storage facility or, if connected to a crude oil or refined product pipeline, a pump station.

2. Subdivision 1m. does not prohibit the operation of a drone at the direction of any of the following for official business:

a. The owner or operator of the facility for the purpose of monitoring, inspecting, operating, or maintaining the facility.

b. A county, city, village, or town in which the parcel is located in any area under its jurisdiction.

3. Subdivision 1m. does not prohibit the operation of a drone for a commercial purpose if the drone is operated in compliance with federal aviation administration regulations, authorizations, or exemptions.

SECTION 3. 114.045 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 114.045 (3) (a) and amended to read:

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."

114.045 (3) (a) A law enforcement officer investigating an alleged violation of sub. (1) (a) shall seize and transfer to the department of corrections or authority in charge of the correctional institution any photograph, motion picture, other visual representation, or data that represents a visual image that was created or recorded by a drone during an alleged violation of sub. (1) (a).

SECTION 4. 114.045 (3) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

114.045 (3) (b) A law enforcement officer investigating an alleged violation of sub. (1) (b) shall seize and do all of the following with any photograph, motion pic-

ture, or other visual representation, or data that represents a visual image that was created or recorded by a drone during an alleged violation of sub. (1) (b):

1. Transfer the materials to the law enforcement agency that has primary responsibility for providing police protective services in the city, village, or town in which the violation occurred.

2. Upon completion of any enforcement proceeding related to an alleged violation of sub. (1) (b), provide copies of the materials to each city, village, town, or county in which the violation occurred.
