



AB 2113 (McKinnor)

Aviation: unmanned aircraft systems: ticketed entertainment events

FACT SHEET

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ISSUE

The rapid growth of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) has created new public safety challenges, particularly at large ticketed entertainment events that draw dense crowds. Outdoor concerts, sporting events, and festivals often host tens of thousands of attendees in confined spaces, where unauthorized drone operations pose risks of injury, disruption, and interference with emergency response efforts.

While federal authorities regulate national airspace and may issue temporary flight restrictions, they may not always be positioned to respond quickly to unauthorized drone activity occurring directly above or adjacent to live entertainment venues. Local law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for managing crowd safety and emergency response at these events. Current law lacks clear state-level statutory authority specifically addressing drone operations in close proximity to ticketed gatherings.

California hosts some of the world's largest and most visible events, including the 2028 Summer Olympics, the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Super Bowl LX, and major festivals such as the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and Stagecoach Festival. As the scale and visibility of these events increase, so too does the need for clear and enforceable public safety standards governing drone use in close proximity to large crowds.

Without clear state-level guardrails, unauthorized drone activity can endanger attendees, strain local law enforcement resources, and interfere with events that are central to California's economy and cultural identity.

SOLUTION

AB 2113 establishes a clear and enforceable public safety standard by prohibiting the operation of a drone within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event or amusement park.

By creating a straightforward infraction with a \$500 fine, the bill strengthens deterrence and provides a practical enforcement mechanism.

The bill includes targeted exemptions for authorized operators, including those with consent from the venue operator, venue and amusement park employees conducting official business, utility and transportation agencies, federally authorized commercial operators conducting BVLOS operations, and public agency emergency personnel performing their duties.

By establishing a clear statutory framework, AB 2113 strengthens crowd safety and helps California prepare for large scale entertainment events and global gatherings, including the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Protecting attendees, performers, athletes, and event personnel helps preserve the long term vitality of California's live entertainment industry.

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