



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 400 foot radius of a ticketed entertainment event held at an outdoor venue capable of accommodating 1,000 or more attendees.

By creating a straightforward infraction with a \$500 fine, this bill strengthens deterrence and ensures the policy is practical and enforceable.

The bill continues to provide narrowly tailored exemptions for authorized operators, including individuals with consent from event organizers, federally authorized operators acting in compliance with federal law, venue employees conducting official business, utility workers, and

certain private property owners operating lawfully above their own property.

By empowering local authorities with a clear statutory framework, AB 2113 strengthens on-the-ground response capabilities, enhances crowd safety, and ensures California is prepared to safely host large-scale entertainment events and global gatherings. Protecting attendees, performers, athletes, and event personnel preserves both public safety and the long-term vitality of California's live entertainment industry.

SUPPORT

Live Nation (Sponsor)
San Francisco 49ers