

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6245

To require a review of the system used by the Department of Defense for categorizing unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2021

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require a review of the system used by the Department of Defense for categorizing 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 “Unmanned Aircraft
5 Systems Review Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIRED REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

7 **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS CAT-**
8 **EGORIZATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense
10 for Acquisition and Sustainment shall initiate a process—

1 (1) to review the system used by the Depart-
2 ment of Defense for categorizing unmanned aircraft
3 systems, as described in Joint Publication 3–30 ti-
4 tled “Joint Air Operations”; and

5 (2) to determine whether modifications should
6 be made in the Department of Defense grouping of
7 unmanned aerial systems into five broad categories,
8 as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (b) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR REVISION.—If the
10 Under Secretary determines under subsection (a) that the
11 characteristics associated with any of the five categories
12 of unmanned aircraft systems should be revised, the
13 Under Secretary shall consider the effect a revision would
14 have on—

15 (1) the future capability and employment needs
16 to support current and emerging warfighting con-
17 cepts;

18 (2) advanced systems and technologies available
19 in the current commercial marketplace;

20 (3) the rapid fielding of unmanned aircraft sys-
21 tems technology; and

22 (4) the integration of unmanned aircraft sys-
23 tems into the National Airspace System.

1 (c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying
2 out the review required under subsection (a), the Under
3 Secretary shall consult with—

4 (1) the Secretary of each of the military depart-
5 ments;

6 (2) the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff;

7 (3) the Secretary of State; and

8 (4) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
9 Administration.

10 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than October 1,
11 2022, the Under Secretary shall submit to the congres-
12 sional defense committees, the Committee on Transpor-
13 tation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Foreign
14 Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Com-
15 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the
16 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report
17 that includes a description of—

18 (1) the results of the review initiated under
19 subsection (a);

20 (2) any revisions planned to the system used by
21 the Department of Defense for categorizing un-
22 manned aircraft systems as a result of such review;

23 (3) the costs and benefits of any planned revi-
24 sions; and

- 1 (4) a proposed implementation plan and
- 2 timelines for such revisions.

