

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5202

To require the Department of Defense to revise the system used for categorizing unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

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

A BILL

To require the Department of Defense to revise the system used 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. REQUIRED REVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
4 **FENSE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS CAT-**
5 **EGORIZATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense
7 for Acquisition and Sustainment shall initiate a process
8 to review and revise the system used by the Department
9 of Defense for categorizing unmanned aircraft systems, as

1 described in Joint Publication 3–30 titled “Joint Air Op-
2 erations”.

3 (b) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR REVISION.—In revis-
4 ing the characteristics associated with any of the five cat-
5 egories of unmanned aircraft systems in effect as of the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary
7 of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall consider
8 the effect a revision would have on—

9 (1) the future capability and employment needs
10 to support current and emerging warfighting con-
11 cepts;

12 (2) advanced systems and technologies available
13 in the current commercial marketplace;

14 (3) the rapid fielding of unmanned aircraft sys-
15 tems technology; and

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

18 (c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying
19 out the review required under subsection (a), the Under
20 Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
21 shall consult with—

22 (1) the Secretaries of the Military Departments;

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

24 and

1 (3) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
2 Administration.

3 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1,
4 2022, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and
5 Sustainment shall submit to the congressional defense
6 committees, the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
7 structure of the House of Representatives, and the Com-
8 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
9 Senate a report describing the results of the review initi-
10 ated under subsection (a), any revisions planned to the
11 system used by the Department of Defense for catego-
12 rizing unmanned aircraft systems as a result of such re-
13 view, and a proposed implementation plan and timelines
14 for such revisions.

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