

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 29

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress and President to fund FAA Drone Test Site Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2018)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Congress and the President of
2 the United States to fund the Federal Aviation Administration’s
3 Drone Test Site Program.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The economic future of any society depends on its ability
6 to develop new technologies and pioneer emerging economic
7 sectors; and

8 **WHEREAS**, The civil and commercial use of unmanned aircraft
9 systems, commonly referred to as drones, is one such emerging
10 sector that is likely to shape future economies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Although the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
12 published Part 107 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 C.F.R.
13 s.107 et seq. (2016)) in August 2016, which established the first
14 rules and regulations for commercial drone use in the United States,
15 the technology’s commercial viability is still limited by the inability
16 to fully integrate drones into the national airspace system; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Integration into the national airspace system, which would
18 allow drones to reliably and safely share airspace with conventional
19 manned aircraft, requires the FAA to develop a variety of industry-
20 specific airworthiness credentials, air traffic control communication
21 procedures, and operational regulations, especially for drones that
22 fly beyond the line-of-sight of the operator; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Industry reports estimate that there will be roughly \$82
24 billion in economic impact, including over 100,000 advanced
25 manufacturing jobs and \$482 million in tax revenue, created
26 nationally within 11 years of the integration of drones into the
27 national airspace system; and

28 **WHEREAS**, To support this emerging sector, Congress passed the
29 “FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012” (49 U.S.C.
30 s.40101) which established several research and development
31 programs to support civil and commercial drone technological
32 advancement and lay the groundwork for airspace integration; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Most importantly, the act established a Drone Test Site
34 Program in which six geographically diverse test sites were created
35 to provide the research findings and operational experiences needed
36 to ensure the safe and efficient integration of drones into national
37 airspace; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Through the “Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership,” New
39 Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland were selected to host a joint test
40 site, with the Cape May Airport in Rio Grande, New Jersey serving
41 as a primary research facility; and

42 **WHEREAS**, At this test site, leading researchers from Rutgers
43 University, Virginia Tech University, and the University of
44 Maryland focus on developing airworthiness certification standards,
45 beyond visual line-of-sight flight operations, and long-distance
46 drone communication technology, all of which are necessary for the
47 safe and efficient operation of drones; and

1 **WHEREAS**, In addition to helping the United States become a global
2 leader of civil and commercial drone technology, the Drone Test
3 Site Program transforms New Jersey into a regional hub for this
4 emerging economic sector; and
5 **WHEREAS**, Limited federal support for the program, however, now
6 jeopardizes this bright economic future; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Because test sites do not receive direct federal funding,
8 most are forced to rent their facilities for industry drone flights in
9 order to finance research operations; and
10 **WHEREAS**, As a result, budgetary constraints make it difficult for test
11 sites to conduct the extensive research that is needed to safely and
12 efficiently integrate drones into the national airspace system; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Funding limitations, in turn, undercut the ability of test
14 sites to accomplish their original objective of supporting airspace
15 integration and delay the development of civil and commercial
16 drone technology in the United States; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Congressional funding for the FAA Drone Test Site
18 Program could rectify this problem and ensure that the United
19 States becomes a pioneer of civil and commercial drone
20 technology; now, therefore,

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22 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
23 *Jersey:*

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25 1. This House respectfully urges Congress and the President of
26 the United States to fund the Federal Aviation Administration's
27 Drone Test Site Program so that test sites are able to more
28 effectively support drone integration into the national airspace
29 system and ensure that the United States becomes a world leader in
30 civil and commercial drone technology.

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32 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
33 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
34 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of
35 the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
36 United States House of Representatives, and each member of
37 Congress elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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42 This resolution respectfully urges Congress and the President of
43 the United States to fund the Federal Aviation Administration's
44 Drone Test Site Program so that test sites more effectively support
45 drone integration into the national airspace system. Developments
46 in civil and commercial drone technology offer the potential for
47 long-term economic growth. Industry reports indicate that within
48 roughly 10 years the technology could generate over \$82 billion in

1 economic impact nationally, including over 100,000 jobs and \$482
2 million in tax revenue.

3 This economic potential is dependent on the efficient integration
4 of drones into the national airspace system. Airspace integration
5 means that the necessary operational and regulatory standards are in
6 place to ensure that drones can safely share airspace with
7 conventional aircraft in a reliable manner. To date, more research
8 is required before drone airspace integration is achieved and
9 commercial drone use becomes viable.

10 In response, the FAA established the Drone Test Site Program
11 pursuant to section 332(c) of the “FAA Modernization and Reform
12 Act of 2012.” This program selected six test sites that were created
13 to provide the research needed to facilitate the safe and efficient
14 integration of drones into national airspace. The “Mid-Atlantic
15 Aviation Partnership,” comprised of leading researchers from
16 Rutgers University, Virginia Tech University, and the University of
17 Maryland, was selected as one of the test sites, with the Cape May
18 Airport serving as a primary research facility.

19 However, the absence of federal funding for the program has
20 prevented test sites from conducting all of the research needed to
21 support drone integration into national airspace. At present, most
22 test sites are forced to rent their facilities for industry drone flights
23 in order to finance research operations. As a result, test sites
24 experience budgetary constraints that may require researchers to
25 forego promising lines of aviation research due to financial
26 considerations. By enabling test sites to pursue all lines of research,
27 federal funding could ensure that the program accomplishes its
28 objective of supporting drone integration within the national
29 airspace system and transforming the United States into a global
30 leader of civil and commercial drone technology.