
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Jesse Arreguín, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2113 **Hearing Date:** June 30, 2026
Author: McKinnor
Version: June 18, 2026
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: ML

Subject: *Aviation: unmanned aircraft systems: ticketed entertainment events*

HISTORY

Source: Live Nation Entertainment

Prior Legislation: None known

Support: Insomniac

Opposition: None known

Assembly Floor Vote: 72 - 0

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to make it unlawful to operate an unmanned aircraft (UA) within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event, except as specified, and to make a violation an infraction punishable by a fine of \$500.

Existing federal law requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), under the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, to safely integrate unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operation into the national airspace system and to develop and implement certification requirements for the operation of UAS in the national airspace system. (Pub. Law 112-095.)

Existing federal law requires, under FAA rules, federal registration of a UAS before its first flight outdoors for any UAS weighing more than 0.55 pounds (250 grams) and less than 55 pounds (25 kilos). Requires that upon registration, UAS owners receive a Certificate of Aircraft Registration/Proof of Ownership along with a unique identification number, which must be marked or affixed to the UAS. (14 C.F.R. Parts 1, 45, 47, 48, 91, and 375.)

Existing federal law permits commercial UAS flight over unpopulated areas if safety conditions are met, as specified. (14 C.F.R. Part 107.)

Existing federal law restricts UAS operation within a 3-nautical-mile radius and up to 3,000 feet above ground level (AGL) of any stadium with a seating capacity of 30,000 or more. (14 C.F.R. § 99.7.)

Existing state law defines unmanned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems as follows:

- a) “Unmanned aircraft” means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft;
- b) “Unmanned aircraft system” means an UA and associated elements, including, but not limited to, communication links and the components that control the UA that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system. (Gov. Code, § 853.5.)

Existing state law states that a person who knowingly and intentionally operates an UAS on or above the grounds of a state prison, a jail, or a juvenile hall, camp, or ranch is guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine of \$500. (Gov. Code, § 4577, subd. (a).)

Existing state law makes it a misdemeanor to use an unmanned aircraft system to look through a hole or opening into the interior of specified areas in which the occupant has a reasonable expectation of privacy with the intent to invade the privacy of a person inside. (Pen. Code, § 647, subd. (j)(1).)

This bill makes it unlawful to operate an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event.

- This prohibition does not apply to a person who has obtained consent from the venue operator for the ticketed entertainment event, or is an employee of the entertainment venue where the ticketed entertainment event is held and is conducting official business.
- This prohibition does not apply to a person who is an employee of a water, sewer, electrical, telephone, cable, or other regulated utility service provider and is conducting official business.

This bill makes a violation of this provision is an infraction, which is a crime, punishable by a fine of \$500.

This bill defines the following terms for these purposes:

- “Ticketed entertainment event” means any professional music, sporting, or performing arts event held that meets all of the following requirements:
 - It is held in an entertainment venue with the capacity to hold 1,000 or more attendees with gated entries or barriers that prevent access to the general public;
 - A revocable license that has been issued by the venue operator of the entertainment venue is required for attendance at the event;
 - It is not covered by FAA restrictions.
- “Unmanned aircraft” means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.
- “Venue operator” means any person who owns, operates, manages, or controls an entertainment venue.

COMMENTS

1. Need for This Bill

The author writes:

AB 2113 is intended to protect public safety at large, ticketed entertainment events by establishing clear limits on the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) over these venues. With California hosting some of the world's largest concerts, sporting events, and festivals, unauthorized drones pose real risks to attendees, performers, and event personnel. While federal authorities oversee national airspace, local law enforcement often has the best knowledge and capacity to respond quickly to threats at individual venues. This bill empowers local authorities with a clear statutory framework, balancing safety, privacy, and access, to ensure that California's live entertainment and sporting events remain safe, vibrant, and accessible for all residents and visitors.

2. Existing Law

Existing federal law provides regulations for flying drones under the Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems regulations in Part 107 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Under these regulations, UAs are restricted from operating within a within a 3-nautical-mile radius and up to 3,000 feet above ground level (AGL) of any stadium with a seating capacity of 30,000 or more. (14 C.F.R. § 99.7.) These regulations apply to Major League Baseball games, regular or post-season National Football League games, or NCAA Division I football games, as well as major motor speedway events. This temporary restriction “applies to the entire U.S. domestic National Airspace System, and takes effect starting one hour before the scheduled event time until one hour after the event concludes.”¹ The FAA has also established temporary flight restrictions over stadiums hosting FIFA World Cup 2026 matches and related events.² Violations of FAA regulations can lead to fines of up to \$100,000, confiscation of the UA, and federal criminal charges.³

3. Effect of This Bill

This bill makes it unlawful to operate an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event. A violation of this provision an infraction, which is a crime, punishable by a fine of \$500.

The restriction under this bill is more limited than the FAA regulations described above at 400 feet within an outdoor ticketed entertainment event. The bill applies to any professional music, sporting, or performing arts event that is held outdoors where the venue has a capacity of 1,000 or more attendees and has gated barriers that prevent access to the general public, requires a ticket for attendance, and is not covered by FAA restrictions. Exceptions to the prohibition are if

¹ Federal Aviation Admin., *Can I fly a model aircraft or UAS over a stadium or sporting events for hobby or recreation?* <<https://www.faa.gov/faq/can-i-fly-model-aircraft-or-uas-over-stadium-or-sporting-events-hobby-or-recreation>> [as of June 20, 2026].

² Federal Aviation Admin., *FAA Establishes ‘No Drone Zones’ for FIFA World Cup 2026 Stadiums, Fan Events and Base Camps* <<https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/faa-establishes-no-drone-zones-fifa-world-cup-2026-stadiums-fan-events-and-base-camps>> [as of June 20, 2026].

³ *Ibid.*

the person has obtained consent from the venue to operate a UA or the person is an employee of a water, sewer, electrical, telephone, cable, or other regulated utility service provider and is conducting official business.

Additionally, the author accepted amendments proposed by the Senate Judiciary Committee that state that the statute “will not be interpreted to prohibit a firefighter, peace officer, medical personnel, or other emergency personnel, in the performance of their fire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response duties, from using an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event.”

4. Argument in Support

Live Nation Entertainment writes:

Live events are an integral part of California’s economy, attracting millions of visitors each year and driving tens of millions in local economic impact across the state. Live Nation alone produces hundreds of outdoor concerts each year at amphitheaters, stadiums, and other open spaces in California. The safety of our guests is a priority for us, as it is for all other event organizers across the state. That requires understanding the ever evolving of technology that bad actors may use, including drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles. Drone usage has skyrocketed in recent years (160% increase since 2019 according to the FAA). Like many of our colleagues in other live events, we have experienced a growing number of unauthorized drone incursions at outdoor festivals, stadiums, and amphitheaters.

Despite that, under current rules and regulations many high-density events such as outdoor festivals and concerts are excluded from existing prohibitions on unauthorized drone use, despite facing comparable security risks to the highest profile of gatherings. As a result, AB 2113 will dramatically improve the safety of live events by enacting an outright ban on operating unauthorized drones and other unmanned aircraft over large crowds at ticketed entertainment events.

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