

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Christopher M. Ward, Chair

AB 2113 (McKinnor) – As Amended April 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Aviation: unmanned aircraft systems: ticketed entertainment events

SUMMARY: AB 2113 prohibits the operation of an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Prohibits the operation of an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of an outdoor ticketed entertainment event, except under the following circumstances:
 - a) The person has obtained consent from the venue operator for the ticketed event.
 - b) The person is an employee of the entertainment venue where the ticketed entertainment event is held and is conducting official business.
 - c) The person is an employee of a water, sewer, electrical, telephone, cable, or other regulated utility service provider and is conducting official business.
- 2) Allows each violation to be an infraction punishable by a fine of \$500.
- 3) Defines a “Ticketed entertainment event” as any professional music, sporting, or performing arts event held that meets all of the following requirements:
 - a) 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.
 - b) A revocable license that has been issued by the venue operator of the entertainment venue is required for attendance at the event.
 - c) It is not covered by Federal Aviation Administration restrictions.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines the following terms:
 - a) “Unmanned aircraft” means an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. (Government Code (GOV) Section 853.5(a))
 - b) “Unmanned aircraft system” means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements, including but not limited to, communication links and the components that control the uncrewed aircraft, which are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system. (GOV 853.5(b))

- 2) Provides that a person who knowingly and intentionally operates an unmanned aircraft system 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 4577 (a))
- 3) 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. (Penal Code, § 647(j)(1))
- 4) Vests, pursuant to federal law, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with the authority to regulate airspace use, management and efficiency, air traffic control, safety, navigational facilities, and aircraft noise. (49 U.S.C. §§ 40103, 44502, and 44701-44735.)
- 5) Requires the 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. (Public Law Number 112-095.)
- 6) 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). 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 CFR Parts 1, 45, 47, 48, 91, and 375.)

Permits commercial UAS flight over unpopulated areas if safety conditions are met, as specified. (14 CFR Part 107.)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This measure has been keyed fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

- 1) Author's statement. According to the author, "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) Background. The rapid growth in the use and accessibility of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, has created new public safety risks at large-scale ticketed entertainment events such as concerts, festivals, and sporting events. These events often involve tens of thousands of attendees gathered in confined outdoor venues, making them particularly vulnerable to disruption or harm from unauthorized drone activity.

Currently, there is no clear state-level restriction specifically addressing drone operations directly above or immediately adjacent to ticketed entertainment events. While federal authorities regulate national airspace and may issue temporary flight restrictions for certain major events, these restrictions are not always consistently requested, implemented, or easily enforced in real time. As a result, unauthorized drones have appeared over concerts, festivals, and sporting events, creating safety concerns for attendees, performers, athletes, and event staff.

Unauthorized drone operations can pose several risks, including the potential for drones to malfunction and fall into crowds, interfere with event operations or security planning, or be used to carry harmful payloads. Event organizers and local law enforcement are often responsible for maintaining on-the-ground safety but currently lack a clear state-level enforcement mechanism specifically addressing drone activity over these types of events.

- 3) FAA Restrictions. The FAA currently prohibits the flying of drones over certain restricted areas, such as airports. In addition, some jurisdictions have created “No Drone Zones” that prohibit the taking off and landing of drones in restricted areas. The FAA provides No Drone Zone signs that can be used by these governments to identify areas where there are local flight restrictions. They do not, however, restrict a person from flying a drone over the area.

The FAA also prohibits the flying of drones in and around sports stadiums beginning one hour before and ending one hour after the scheduled time of any normal or post-season event for any of the following:

- Major League Baseball
- National Football League
- NCAA Division One Football
- NASCAR Sprint Cup, Indy Car, and Champ Series races

- 4) National Security Special Events. In addition to the stadium restrictions, the FAA establishes temporary flight restrictions (TFR) for certain events that the federal government designates as National Security Special Events. These restrictions apply to both drones and planes. The only exceptions are for emergency, public safety, and military aircraft. During Super Bowl LX at Levi Stadium in Santa Clara, the FAA issued a TFR that restricted air traffic during the week leading up to the game and the game itself. On the day of the game, the TFR had “a 30-nautical-mile outer ring and a more restrictive 10-nautical-mile inner core.”

The FAA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) coordinated to enforce several TFRs during the week of the Super Bowl, with special restrictions for drones. These restrictions for drone operators included a no-fly zone within 30 nautical miles and 18,000 feet above Levi Stadium during the game.

- 5) Arguments in support. According to Live Nation Entertainment in support, “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 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.”

- 6) Double-referral. This measure was first referred to the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection, where it passed on a 15-0 vote (Consent).
- 7) Amendments and policy considerations. The Committee received a letter of support from the California Attractions and Parks Association that recommended extending the provisions of this bill to include outdoor amusement parks as well. This change could be considered, potentially in the future as separate legislation, as California’s amusement parks are also vital to the tourism and entertainment industries. Additionally, some of these parks do not require a ticket in order to have access, including Pacific Park at Santa Monica Pier, Belmont Park in San Diego, and Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.
- 8) Prior and related legislation:
 - a) AB 1749 (Dixon), of the current legislative session, would prohibit the use of a drone to knowingly or recklessly interfere with wildfire suppression efforts or related emergency response efforts, and would authorize the Attorney General, a county counsel, or a city attorney to bring civil actions, as specified, for each violation. Currently with the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
 - b) AB 2043 (Calderon), of the current legislative session, would require the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) to establish and lead the Countering Unmanned Aircraft Systems Task Force to develop a statewide strategy to protect mass gatherings, critical infrastructure, and other soft targets from attacks by unmanned aircraft systems. Additionally, this bill defines the task force’s purpose, primary objective, goals, and the specific methods it may use to achieve them. Currently with the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
 - c) AB 1680 (Rodriguez), Chapter 817, Statutes of 2016, made it a misdemeanor to use a drone to impede specified emergency personnel in the performance of their duties while coping with an emergency.
 - d) SB 168 (Gaines), of the 2015-2016 Legislative Session, would have made it a misdemeanor to operate a UAS, in a manner that prevents or delays the extinguishment of a fire, or in any way interferes with the efforts of firefighters to control, contain, or extinguish a fire. SB 168 was vetoed by the Governor.
 - e) SB 271 (Gaines), of the 2015-2016 Legislative Session, would have made it an infraction to knowingly and intentionally operate a UAS on the grounds of, or less than 350 feet

above ground level within the airspace overlaying, a public school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, during school hours and without the written permission of the school principal or higher authority, or his or her designee, or equivalent school authority. SB 271 was vetoed by Governor.

- f) SB 170 (Gaines), of the 2015-2016 Legislative Session, would have created a felony crime for the use of a UAS to deliver contraband into a prison or county jail, and create a misdemeanor crime for the use of UAS over a prison to capture images of a prison. SB 170 was vetoed by the Governor.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

Forty Niners Football Company LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company
Live Nation Entertainment

Support if amended

California Attractions and Parks Association

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Brian V. Anderson, Jr. / A.,E.,S., & T. / (916) 319-3450