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Proposed Florida House Bill “Charlie Kirk Aerial Protection Act”

Submitted by Bill Moore, Orlando, FL

Bill Moore is a retired Orlando Police Department Detective with 21 years of service, a former Task Force Agent with the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, and a FAA-certified sUAS Remote Pilot, and is running for Orange County Sheriff.

An act relating to protective use of unmanned aircraft systems by licensed security personnel; creating the "Charlie Kirk Aerial Protection Act"; amending s. 934.50, F.S.; amending s. 493.6101, F.S.; creating s. 493.63, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; authorizing the use of unmanned aircraft systems for protective security operations; providing immunity; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

1 Section 1. Short Title.—This act may be cited as the
2 "Charlie Kirk Aerial Protection Act."

3

4 Section 2. Legislative findings and intent.—

5 (1) The Legislature finds that the safety of public officials,
6 political candidates, and members of the public attending political,
7 educational, and civic events is a matter of compelling state interest.

8 (2) The Legislature recognizes that hostile acts, including sniper
9 attacks and targeted shootings, pose an imminent and grave threat to
10 public safety. The July 2024 assassination attempt against presidential
11 candidate Donald J. Trump, in which the assailant gained elevated access



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12 and fired from a rooftop vantage point, demonstrates the vulnerability
13 of candidates to sniper-style attacks.

14 (3) The Legislature further recognizes the September 2025
15 assassination of Charlie Kirk while speaking on a college campus,
16 where the assailant exploited weaknesses in venue security, as tragic
17 evidence of how public discourse and political engagement are threatened
18 by acts of violence.

19 (4) These events underscore the urgent necessity of equipping
20 licensed security professionals and their contracted unmanned aircraft
21 system (UAS) remote pilots with lawful authority to conduct protective
22 aerial sweeps of rooftops, elevated areas, and other vantage points
23 prior to and during such events, for the sole purpose of preventing
24 and mitigating hostile acts.

25 (5) The Legislature finds that in moments of imminent hostile
26 attack, seconds matter. Security officers and contracted UAS operators
27 must be empowered to act immediately to identify the location of a
28 shooter, sniper, or bomber, and to locate victims requiring life-saving
29 measures, without waiting for instruction from law enforcement.

30 (6) The Legislature intends that such protective operations shall
31 be deemed assistance to law enforcement officers in need of aid,
32 consistent with Florida law, and that actions taken in good faith and
33 without gross negligence under these circumstances shall be immune from
34 civil liability and criminal prosecution, in harmony with the Good
35 Samaritan Act, s. 768.13, F.S.



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(7) It is the intent of the Legislature that these provisions strike a careful balance: strengthening protective services to prevent mass casualty events while maintaining Florida's strong commitment to privacy by narrowly tailoring drone use to protective missions, limiting data retention, and prohibiting expansion into general surveillance or private investigation.

Section 3. Subsection (7)(h) is added to section 934.50, Florida Statutes, to read:

934.50 Prohibition on use of drones.—

(7)(h) Protective Security Operations.—This section does not prohibit the use of a drone by a person or entity licensed under chapter 493 to provide security officer services, including executive protection, when:

1. The drone is deployed for the limited purpose of conducting pre-event or real-time protective sweeps of rooftops, elevated vantage points, or other areas within line of sight of a public official, political candidate, or other principal under protection;

2. The use is directly related to the prevention or mitigation of sniper, ballistic, or other elevated-threat opportunities;

3. The operation is conducted in compliance with FAA regulations;

4. Images or data collected are not retained longer than 30 days, unless they contain evidence of a criminal act or are necessary for



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60 ongoing protective security assessments;

61 5. The security licensee may contract with or employ a third-party
62 FAA-certified small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) remote pilot to
63 conduct such flights on behalf of the licensee, provided that the
64 licensed security agency or officer retains responsibility for
65 mission scope, data handling, and compliance with this section; and

66 6. In the event of an imminent or ongoing hostile act, including
67 but not limited to an active shooter, bombing, or sniper attack, the
68 licensee and/or contracted drone operator may take immediate action
69 to deploy or reposition a drone to assist in identifying the source,
70 location, or perpetrator of the attack, or in locating potential
71 victims in need of aid, without waiting for direction from law
72 enforcement. Such immediate deployment shall be deemed assistance to
73 law enforcement officers in need of aid.

74 7. A licensee or contracted sUAS remote pilot who, in good faith
75 and without gross negligence, takes action under this subsection for
76 the purpose of identifying a hostile actor or locating victims of a
77 hostile act in order to direct life-saving measures, shall be immune
78 from civil liability and criminal prosecution. This immunity shall
79 be construed consistently with, and in addition to, s. 768.13, F.S.

80

81 Section 4. Subsection (17) of section 493.6101, Florida Statutes,
82 is amended to read:

83



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84 493.6101 Definitions.—

85 (17) "Private investigation" means ... [existing text unchanged] ...

86 The term does not include the use of unmanned aircraft systems by a

87 licensed security officer, security agency, or protective detail for

88 the purpose of rooftop or elevated-area threat assessments undertaken

89 to safeguard a principal or event, or for immediate response during a

90 hostile act, including when such flights are conducted by an FAA-certified

91 small unmanned aircraft system remote pilot contracted or retained by the

92 licensee. Actions taken in good faith under such circumstances shall not

93 give rise to civil or criminal liability and are expressly subject to the

94 immunity provisions of s. 768.13, F.S.

95

96 Section 5. Section 493.63, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

97

98 493.63 Authorized drone protective operations by security licensees.—

99 (1) A Class "B" licensed security agency, or a Class "C" or "D"

100 licensee employed by such an agency, may utilize unmanned aircraft

101 systems as part of an executive protection or event security detail.

102 (2) Such use shall be deemed a security service and not a private

103 investigation under this chapter.

104 (3) The licensed agency or officer may contract with, employ, or

105 retain a third-party FAA-certified small unmanned aircraft system

106 (sUAS) remote pilot to conduct drone operations for protective

107 purposes.



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- 108 (4) The contracting licensee remains responsible for:
- 109 (a) Defining the protective mission scope;
- 110 (b) Ensuring compliance with s. 934.50 and all applicable FAA
- 111 regulations, including Part 107; and
- 112 (c) Ensuring secure handling, retention, and disposition of any
- 113 imagery or data collected.
- 114 (5) In the event of an active hostile incident, including but not
- 115 limited to a sniper, shooting, bombing, or other imminent threat to
- 116 life, the licensee and/or contracted sUAS operator is expressly
- 117 authorized to take immediate action to deploy, redirect, or
- 118 reposition a drone to assist in locating the source of the threat,
- 119 identifying the perpetrator, or locating victims for the purpose of
- 120 directing emergency life-saving measures. Such immediate action shall
- 121 be legally presumed to constitute assistance to law enforcement
- 122 officers in need of aid.
- 123 (6) Immunity.—A licensee or contracted sUAS remote pilot acting
- 124 under subsection (5) in good faith and without gross negligence is
- 125 immune from civil liability and criminal prosecution for acts or
- 126 omissions arising out of such deployment, including any incidental or
- 127 unavoidable invasion of privacy, provided the actions were reasonably
- 128 necessary to identify the hostile actor or to locate victims for the
- 129 purpose of directing life-saving measures. This subsection shall be
- 130 interpreted consistently with s. 768.13, F.S. (Good Samaritan Act),
- 131 and shall be deemed supplementary to its protections.



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132 (7) Any data collected shall be limited to the protective mission
133 and handled in accordance with s. 934.50.

134

135 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.