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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
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Office

**H.B. 317**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. T. Mathews

Christopher Glass, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Prohibits public entities from acquiring “small unmanned aircraft systems,” aerial drones, from a “covered foreign entity.”
- Prohibits public entities from operating aerial drones manufactured by a covered foreign entity on or after May 1, 2027.
- Prohibits state funds being used in connection with aerial drones from a covered foreign entity.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Small unmanned aircraft systems

The bill prohibits any “public entity” from purchasing or otherwise acquiring aerial drones assembled or manufactured by a “covered foreign entity.” The term “covered foreign entity” means an individual, foreign government, or party to which any of the following apply:

1. Is designated on the consolidated screening list or entity list published by the U.S. Department of Commerce;
2. Is domiciled in the People’s Republic of China or Russian Federation;
3. Is under the influence or control of the government of the People’s Republic of China or Russian Federation;
4. Is a subsidiary or affiliate of an individual, government, or party to which any of criteria (1) through (3) apply.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5501.84(A) and (B)(1).

Public entities may continue operating aerial drones manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity until May 1, 2027. The bill defines “public entity” broadly to encompass the state and all political subdivisions of the state.<sup>2</sup>

The bill also prohibits state funds from being used in connection with aerial drones manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity, including through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements.<sup>3</sup>

Because the bill’s prohibition on procurement applies to municipal corporations and charter counties, if challenged, a court might examine whether the bill conflicts with the “home rule” powers of these local entities established by the Ohio Constitution, which include the “power of local self-government” and the authority to make regulations for the public health, safety, and morals, and the general welfare of society, or “police power.”<sup>4</sup>

Because the bill prohibits the procurement of certain foreign goods, if challenged, a court might examine whether it could be interpreted as regulating commerce with foreign nations – a power expressly and exclusively reserved to Congress by the U.S. Constitution.<sup>5</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	06-03-25

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5501.84(A)(3).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 5501.84(B)(2).

<sup>4</sup> Ohio Constitution, Article XVIII, Section III and art. X, sec. III; *Miami County v. Dayton*, 92 Ohio St. 215 (1915).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (stating “The Congress shall have power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes”).