

# **One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB412**

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**Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: February 14, 2013**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Drones are formally referred to as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and come in a variety of shapes and sizes ranging from as large as commercial airliners to as small as hummingbirds. They can be remotely or self-guided, and have been used primarily in the military as surveillance tools or focused attack weapons. The technology underlying drones has become smaller, cheaper, and increasingly sophisticated. As the United States winds down some of its active military presence overseas, manufacturers can be expected to promote drones as new technologically efficient tools for state and local law enforcement.

Due to safety concerns, the Federal Aviation Administration strictly limits the use of drones, however, the agency is planning a more permissive approval system for commercial use.

Before the drone industry begins lobbying, and state and local agencies plan to make substantial investments in this new technology, it is wise for the Legislature to be proactive and set policy for the use of drones by law enforcement.

LB412 begins that process with a general prohibition of the use of drone technology. Over the next few years as the capability of the devices and specific utilities become defined, permissible uses with proper safeguards will undoubtedly emerge. While thoroughly debated and targeted exceptions to the general prohibition can be expected to be authorized by future Legislatures, the process of cautious regulation and liberty sensitive oversight needs to begin with the general prohibition set forth in the bill.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Paul Schumacher**

