

HB602 Opposition Statement 2015

Re: Opposition to HB602

Dear Executive Departments and Administration Committee,

-or-

Dear Representative [Name],

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to HB602, An Act relative to the use of drones. Specifically, I am opposed to section 644-A:4 Airport Prohibition that states "No government or person shall operate a drone at an altitude below 400 feet within 5 miles of any airport in this state."

I strongly request that HB602 644-A:4 be removed or replaced with wording such as "No government or person shall operate a drone within 5 miles of any airport in this state in a manner that does not comply with relevant Federal Law and Federal Aviation Administration regulations and guidelines in effect at the time."

By HB602's definition, a model aircraft would be considered a "drone".

I am a model aircraft hobbyist, and a member of an established and nationally chartered model aircraft club ([CLUB NAME], [LOCATION]). We have been operating our model aircraft safely and responsibly for many years, and adhere to strict safety codes established by our national organization, the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), and the Federal Aviation Administration.

The proposed wording in HB602 644-A:4 would severely impact a number of permanent model aircraft flying fields that are within the 5 mile radius of one of the more than 24 NH airports recognized by the Department of Transportation. HB602 would make it illegal to fly at these sites and would most likely force these clubs to cease operations altogether. Club members have spent countless hours and dollars obtaining, improving, and maintaining these flying sites.

[Insert personal club information here if your site falls within 5 miles of an airport]

New Hampshire currently has over 800 AMA members (approximately 600 adult and 200 youth) and 18 chartered clubs. However, HB602's reach will extend far beyond our membership. Model aviation has been the catalyst for many young people to pursue careers in aviation and engineering. If the wording of HB602 644-A:4 stands, flying model aircraft in most of the state's cities would be illegal. This would be an extreme shame at a time when we are trying to encourage students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

[NAME]

[Town]

[Contact Info]