



DES taking public comment on proposed unmanned aircraft systems rules through Dec. 28

Public hearing set for Dec. 22

As part of the agency's responsibility to keep the state Capitol Campus safe for everyone, the Department of Enterprise Services is proposing rules that will mostly prohibit launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)/drones on the 486-acre campus. DES is taking public comment on the [proposed rules](#) through Dec. 28.

About the Capitol Campus

More than 500,000 people visit the [Capitol Campus](#) in Olympia and its four parks each year, including people attending 25,000 school tours and 630 events. In addition, about 10,000 people work on the campus. DES is responsible for the stewardship, preservation, operation and maintenance of the campus, which includes the capitol, legislative and judicial buildings; the Governor's mansion; 15 state agency office buildings; 18 public monuments and works of art; Capitol Lake; and Centennial, Heritage, Marathon and Sylvester parks.

About the proposed rules

The proposed rules apply to all types of unmanned aircraft – including remote-control model aircraft and drones flown for recreational and business purposes. The prohibition would not apply to UAS used for emergency response by law enforcement and other first response agencies, such as local fire and health departments and state and federal environmental protection agencies.

Concerns include:

- Potential public safety risks for people below or in a UAS flight path.
- Risk of interfering with emergency response activities on Capitol Campus and our other properties.
- Potential disruption of state business by UAS activity.

During the first phase of rulemaking, before the proposed rules were drafted, DES held four public workshops to get input from interested stakeholders.

How to submit comments

People can [submit comments online](#) or via [email](#) anytime through Dec. 28.

A public hearing also will be held:

- Dec. 22
- 6 to 8 p.m.
- 1500 Jefferson St. S.E., Olympia, Presentation Room (first floor).

All input is valued equally, whether given in-person at a hearing or submitted in writing.

More information

[UAS web page](#)

[Rulemaking web page](#)