2022 DRONE SCORECARD

ALABAMA

RANK 40

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Task Force or Program Office
The state had a temporary drone task force. In 2014, Governor Robert Bentley established a drone task force, which produced a one-time report for the governor and state legislature.1

Jobs Estimate
Alabama is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Alabama law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
Alabama law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Alabama law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Alabama does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

### Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

### Notes
STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone program office in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.¹

Jobs Estimate
Alaska is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Alaska law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
Alaska law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Alaska law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Alaska does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
Arizona law allows the director of the Arizona Department of Transportation to lease airspace above state roads, which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads.

**Avigation Easement Law**
Arizona law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
State lawmakers created the Urban Air Mobility Study Committee in 2021. The study committee provides recommendations to lawmakers about how to improve passenger drone regulation and commerce.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Arizona law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.

**Jobs Estimate**
Arizona is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Sandbox**
Arizona does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

Airspace Lease Law
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

Avigation Easement Law
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

Sandbox
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
4. § 28-8207.
STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
Arkansas law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads,\(^1\) which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

**Avigation Easement Law**
Arkansas law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.\(^2\)

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Arkansas law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.\(^3\)

**Jobs Estimate**
Arkansas is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Task Force or Program Office**
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Sandbox**
Arkansas does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

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### Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

### Notes

2. § 27-116-102.
3. Id.
STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
California law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state highways,¹ which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads.

**Avigation Easement Law**
California law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.²

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
California law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

**Jobs Estimate**
California is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Task Force or Program Office**
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Sandbox**
California does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

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Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

3. § 21402.
COLORADO

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Colorado law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Colorado law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.² Colorado law also affirms the existence of “estates, rights, and interests” in airspace, independent of the connection to the property owner of the land.³

Jobs Estimate
Colorado is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Colorado law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Colorado does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 41-1-107.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

CONNECTICUT

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Connecticut law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads,¹ which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

Task Force or Program Office
The state legislature produced a one-time drone policy report in 2014.

Jobs Estimate
Connecticut is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Connecticut law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Connecticut law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Connecticut does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Delaware law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
The state created a temporary statewide drone task force in 2015 to encourage education about drones and commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Delaware law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Delaware law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Sandbox
Delaware does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Delaware is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

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### Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

### Notes
2. § 303.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

FLORIDA

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
Florida law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state highways,¹ which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Avigation Easement Law**
Florida law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Florida law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

**Sandbox**
Florida does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
Florida is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

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Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
# 2022 Drone Scorecard

## Georgia

### State Score

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58/100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**

Georgia law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above limited-access highways, which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state or local officials can lease airspace above local roads and state highways that do not have limited access.

**Avigation Easement Law**

Georgia law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**

The state legislature produced a one-time drone policy report in 2015.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**

Georgia law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.

**Jobs Estimate**

Georgia is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

### Factors Hindering the State Score

**Sandbox**

Georgia does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

**Definitions**

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

**Notes**
2. § 6-2-5 (2010).
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

HAWAII

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Hawaii law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Hawaii law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Hawaii law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Hawaii does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Hawaii is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In this case, these peers are selected based on their geographic and political similarities. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oklahoma (74)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2. § 263-3.
# 2022 Drone Scorecard

## Idaho

### State Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avigation Easement Law</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Idaho law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Idaho law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airspace Lease Law</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Idaho law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Force or Program Office</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbox</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Idaho does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs Estimate</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Idaho is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

**Definitions**

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

**Notes**
2. § 21-203 (2016).
ILLINOIS

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Illinois law allows Chicago authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above city streets, which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, outside of Chicago, the law is unclear. Municipalities are prohibited from airspace sale and lease for “purely private uses.” It is uncertain whether drone operations would qualify as a private or public benefit, and there are other minor state limits on airspace leasing.

Task Force or Program Office
The state had a temporary drone task force in 2016.

Jobs Estimate
Illinois is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Illinois law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Illinois law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Illinois does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
1. 65 ILL. COMP. STAT. 20/21-17 (2019).
2. 5/11-80-8 (2020); 5/11-75-1 (2022).
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

INDIANA

STATE SCORE
37

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
25
Indiana law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
10
Indiana law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
0
Indiana law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
0
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
0
Indiana does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
2
Indiana is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.

MERCATUS CENTER
George Mason University
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2. § 8-21-4-3.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

IOWA

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Jobs Estimate
Iowa is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Iowa law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
Iowa law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Iowa law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Iowa does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>39</td>
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</tr>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oklahoma (74)
## 2022 Drone Scorecard

**Kansas**

### State Score

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

**Rank:** 32

### Factors Helping the State Score

**Task Force or Program Office**

The state has a drone program office, led by the director of unmanned aircraft systems, in the Department of Transportation.¹

**Sandbox**

The Kansas State University Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus offers airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.²

**Jobs Estimate**

Kansas is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

### Factors Hindering the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**

Kansas law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

**Avigation Easement Law**

Kansas law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**

Kansas law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

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Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. See “UAS at K-State Aerospace and Technology Campus,” Kansas State University, accessed March 17, 2022, https://www.salina.k-state.edu/research-training/applied-aviation-research-center/about/.
STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Sandbox
Kentucky's USA Drone Port, currently under construction in eastern Kentucky, will offer airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.¹

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Kentucky law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
Kentucky law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Kentucky law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Jobs Estimate
Kentucky is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

**Notes**

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Louisiana law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads and waterways,¹ which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.²

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone task force, created in 2021 and overseen by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development,³ which develops statewide policy recommendations on the operation, use, and regulation of drones.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Louisiana law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.⁴

Jobs Estimate
Louisiana is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Louisiana law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Sandbox
Louisiana does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 41:91.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

MAINE

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Maine law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads, which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Maine law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Maine law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Maine does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Maine is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
**RANK 15**

**STATE SCORE**
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

### Factors Helping the State Score

1. **Avigation Easement Law**
   Maryland law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

2. **Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
   Maryland law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

3. **Sandbox**
   Maryland’s drone center at Salisbury Regional Airport offers airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.

4. **Jobs Estimate**
   Maryland is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

### Factors Hindering the State Score

1. **Airspace Lease Law**
   Maryland law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

2. **Task Force or Program Office**
   State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

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Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.

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**MERCATUS CENTER**
George Mason University
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2. § 5-104 (2020).
MASSACHUSETTS

**STATE SCORE**
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

### Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
Massachusetts law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above Boston’s metropolitan highways and state highways,\(^1\) which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials outside of Boston can lease airspace above local roads.

**Avigation Easement Law**
Massachusetts law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.\(^2\)

**Jobs Estimate**
Massachusetts is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

### Factors Hindering the State Score

**Task Force or Program Office**
The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has a drone program, but it only serves intragovernmental customers. State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Massachusetts law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

**Sandbox**
Massachusetts does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

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Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

MICHIGAN

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Michigan law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads, which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

Task Force or Program Office
The state has an active drone task force, overseen by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The task force was created by the legislature in 2017 and develops policy recommendations on the operation, use, and regulation of drones.

Sandbox
Michigan's Detroit Region Aerotropolis offers airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Michigan law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Michigan law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Jobs Estimate
Michigan is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

**2022 DRONE SCORECARD**

**MINNESOTA**

**RANK 5**

**STATE SCORE**

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

**Factors Helping the State Score**

**Airspace Lease Law**

Minnesota law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above “trunk highways,” which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads and whether airspace above non-trunk highways can be leased.

**Avigation Easement Law**

Minnesota law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**

The state has a drone program office in the Office of Aeronautics that provides guidance to commercial users and local officials.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**

Minnesota law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.

**Factors Hindering the State Score**

**Sandbox**

Minnesota does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**

Minnesota is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 360.012.
4. § 360.012(2).
Factors Hindering the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
Mississippi law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

**Avigation Easement Law**
Mississippi law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Mississippi law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

**Sandbox**
Mississippi does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
Mississippi is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.
Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

MISSOURI

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Missouri law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Missouri law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Jobs Estimate
Missouri is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Missouri law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Missouri does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2. § 305.020 (2012).
STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Montana law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone task force—the Montana Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Council—overseen by the Montana Department of Transportation. The task force was created by Governor Steve Bullock’s executive order in 2019 and develops statewide policy recommendations regarding residents’ property rights and privacy expectations.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Montana law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Montana law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Sandbox
Montana does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Montana is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ND</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WY</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oklahoma (74)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2. § 67-1-203.
**NEBRASKA**

**STATE SCORE**
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Factors Hindering the State Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td><strong>Airspace Lease Law</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>Avigation Easement Law</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>Task Force or Program Office</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td><strong>Sandbox</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Jobs Estimate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

38 34 5 4 1
CO KS IA SD NE

Oklahoma (74)

Definitions

Airspace Lease Law
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

Avigation Easement Law
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

Sandbox
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.
NEVADA

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Nevada law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
The state created a drone program office—the Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems—within the Governor’s Office of Economic Development. The program office develops statewide drone policy and leads the commercial drone industry through business relations and collaboration with research institutions.²

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Nevada law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Nevada law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Sandbox
Nevada does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Nevada is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
New Hampshire law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads, which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

**Jobs Estimate**
New Hampshire is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Avigation Easement Law**
New Hampshire law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
New Hampshire law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

**Sandbox**
New Hampshire does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

NEW JERSEY

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
New Jersey law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
The state created a drone program within the Bureau of Aeronautics in the New Jersey Department of Transportation² and intends to use drone technology for initiatives related to traffic management, structural inspections, and aerial corridor 3D mapping.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
New Jersey law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

Jobs Estimate
New Jersey is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
New Jersey law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Sandbox
New Jersey does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.
Definitions

Airspace Lease Law
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

Avigation Easement Law
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

Sandbox
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

3. § 6:2-5; § 46:3-19.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

NEW MEXICO

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Jobs Estimate

New Mexico is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law

New Mexico law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law

New Mexico law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office

State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

New Mexico law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox

New Mexico does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

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Definitions

Airspace Lease Law
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

Avigation Easement Law
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

Sandbox
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.
STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
New York law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads, which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

**Sandbox**
New York's NUAIR program in Upstate New York offers airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.

**Jobs Estimate**
New York is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Avigation Easement Law**
New York law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
New York law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

1. N.Y. GEN. MUN. LAW § 72-N (Consol. 2020).
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

NORTH CAROLINA

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
North Carolina law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone program office in the Division of Aviation with the goal of promoting economic development and airport safety.²

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
North Carolina law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

Jobs Estimate
North Carolina is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
North Carolina law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Sandbox
North Carolina does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

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58 55 36 11 11
NC VA TN KY SC

Oklahoma (74)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

3. § 63-12.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

NORTH DAKOTA

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
North Dakota law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone program office—the Northern Plains Unmanned Systems Authority—overseen by state agencies and chaired by the lieutenant governor.² The program office develops policies that advance UAS operations.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
North Dakota law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

Sandbox
North Dakota’s Vantis program offers airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.⁴

Jobs Estimate
North Dakota is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
North Dakota law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

3. § 2-03-03.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

OHIO

RANK 19

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Ohio law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state roads, which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads.

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone program office—the Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center—which is an initiative created and overseen by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The program office is researching and considering the creation of drone highways in aerial corridors above Interstate 71.

Sandbox
Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center and Springfield–Beckley Municipal Airport offer airspace access to drone companies, are affiliated with the state transportation department, and have a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Ohio law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Ohio law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Jobs Estimate
Ohio is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

1. **Ohio Rev. Code § 5501.45 (2003).**
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

OKLAHOMA

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Oklahoma law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads, state roads, and state property, which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these areas.

Task Force or Program Office
State lawmakers created a drone program office—the Oklahoma Advanced Mobility Pilot Program—within the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in May 2020. The program office makes recommendations about drone and electric vertical-takeoff-and-landing aircraft.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Oklahoma law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators. The law also affirms the existence of “titles, estates, rights and interests” in airspace, independent of the connection to the property owner of the land.

Sandbox
Oklahoma’s Choctaw Nation has a program that offers airspace access to drone companies, is affiliated with the state transportation department, and has a prominent, open invitation to drone companies to test their services.

Jobs Estimate
Oklahoma is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Oklahoma law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

OREGON

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Oregon law allows public authorities to lease airspace above state and local roads,\(^1\) which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Jobs Estimate
Oregon is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Oregon law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Oregon law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.\(^2\)

Sandbox
Oregon does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

Pennsylvania

**State Score**

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

**Factors Helping the State Score**

**Task Force or Program Office**
The state has a drone task force overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The task force was created by Governor Tom Wolf in 2021 and develops statewide policy recommendations that aim to integrate drones into the state transportation system and to develop commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Pennsylvania law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.

**Factors Hindering the State Score**

**Airspace Lease Law**
Pennsylvania law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

**Avigation Easement Law**
Pennsylvania law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Sandbox**
Pennsylvania does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
Pennsylvania is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

RHODE ISLAND

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Rhode Island law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
Rhode Island law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Rhode Island law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Rhode Island does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Rhode Island is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.
Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

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**Definitions**

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.
STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
South Carolina law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads,¹ which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
South Carolina law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
South Carolina law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
South Carolina does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
South Carolina is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

**Notes**
STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Jobs Estimate
South Dakota is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
South Dakota law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
South Dakota law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
South Dakota law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.²

Sandbox
South Dakota does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Tennessee law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Tennessee law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Tennessee law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Tennessee does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Tennessee is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 42-1-103 (2014).
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

Texas

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Texas law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads,¹ which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
State lawmakers created a drone task force—the Urban Air Mobility Advisory Committee—within the Texas Department of Transportation in 2021.² Among other things, the task force makes recommendations about passenger drones and airspace policy.

Jobs Estimate
Texas is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Texas law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Texas law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Texas does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Task Force or Program Office
The state has a drone program office within the state department of transportation’s Division of Aeronautics.¹ The program office aims to educate the public about drone technology and encourage commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Utah law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Utah law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.³

Avigation Easement Law
Utah law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Sandbox
Utah does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Utah is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

3. Utah has an airspace lease law that allows UDOT, municipalities, counties, and airport authorities to lease, for airport purposes, state or municipal property, but it is unclear whether this applies to drones. *Utah Code Ann.* § 72-10-203 (2019).
### STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

#### Factors Helping the State Score

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#### Factors Hindering the State Score

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<td>Sandbox</td>
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</tbody>
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Please visit [www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard](http://www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard) for the full research paper and methodology.
Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 402.
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

VIRGINIA

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
Virginia law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads, which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.¹

**Task Force or Program Office**
The state has a program office devoted to drone technologies, overseen by the manager of aviation technology. Furthermore, a state law passed in March 2020 creating a drone policy advisory group that reports to the Department of Aviation.

**Jobs Estimate**
Virginia is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Avigation Easement Law**
Virginia law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
Virginia law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

**Sandbox**
Virginia does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

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Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

WASHINGTON

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Washington law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads, which allows state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
The Washington Department of Transportation created and oversees a program office devoted to drone technologies.

Jobs Estimate
Washington is in the second quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Washington law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Washington law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

Sandbox
Washington does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone-readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In most cases, these peers are neighboring states. (Top line illustrates the top score in 2022.)

<table>
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<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oklahoma (74)

Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**  
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**  
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**  
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**  
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**  
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**  
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

1. *Wash. Rev. Code Ann.* § 35.22.302 (2019); § 47.12.120.
Factors Helping the State Score

**Airspace Lease Law**
West Virginia law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state roads, which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads.

**Task Force or Program Office**
The state legislature created a drone and advanced aviation mobility task force in 2022, overseen by the Department of Economic Development.

**Jobs Estimate**
West Virginia is in the top quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

**Avigation Easement Law**
West Virginia law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
West Virginia law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.

**Sandbox**
West Virginia does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.
Definitions

Airspace Lease Law
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

Avigation Easement Law
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

Sandbox
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 5B-2-18 (2022).
2022 DRONE SCORECARD

WISCONSIN

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Wisconsin law allows local authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads,\(^1\) which allows local officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

Avigation Easement Law
Wisconsin law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.\(^2\)

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Wisconsin law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.\(^3\)

Factors Hindering the State Score

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Wisconsin does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Wisconsin is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.
Definitions

Airspace Lease Law
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

Avigation Easement Law
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

Sandbox
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes
2. § 114.04.
3. § 114.03.
WYOMING

STATE SCORE
Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the State Score

Avigation Easement Law
Wyoming law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.¹

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Wyoming law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Jobs Estimate
Wyoming is in the middle quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

Factors Hindering the State Score

Airspace Lease Law
Wyoming law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow state or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Task Force or Program Office
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Wyoming does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Please visit www.mercatus.org/dronescorecard for the full research paper and methodology.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

**Notes**
2. § 10-4-302.
STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

Factors Helping the Territory Score

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights
Puerto Rico law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.¹

Factors Hindering the Territory Score

Airspace Lease Law
Puerto Rico law does not allow public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above territory and local roads. An airspace lease law would allow territory or local officials to create drone highways above these roadways.

Avigation Easement Law
Puerto Rico law does not create an avigation easement, which means drone operators may be subject to nuisance and trespass laws, even if their drones do not disturb people on the ground.

Task Force or Program Office
Territory leaders should consider convening a territory-wide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

Sandbox
Puerto Rico does not have a drone sandbox. Territory officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

Jobs Estimate
Our data source does not provide jobs data for Puerto Rico, so we do not have a drone jobs estimate for the territory. We also do not rank the territory overall.
Definitions

**Airspace Lease Law**
States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

**Avigation Easement Law**
States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

**Task Force or Program Office**
States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**
States receive points for expressly vesting landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

**Sandbox**
States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

**Jobs Estimate**
This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

Notes

1. P.R. LAWS ANN. tit. 21, § 4601(dd) (2020) (defining “land” as including “the space above” the land).