

15

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

20

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

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5

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

0

30

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.

0

25

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.

0

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

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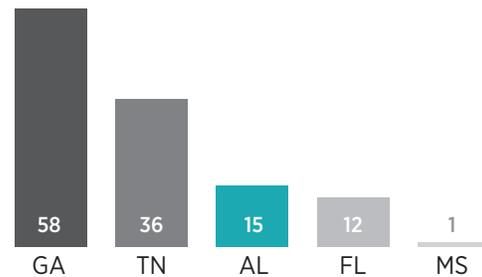
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. The task force appears to be inactive. Governor's Alabama Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Task Force, accessed May 19, 2022, <https://www.dot.state.al.us/publications/Aero/pdf/uasTaskForce.pdf>.

23

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

20

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Task Force or Program Office

The state has a drone program office in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.¹

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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

0

30

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.

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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.

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

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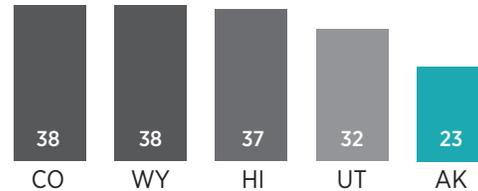
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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.)



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. "Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)," Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, last modified December 22, 2021, <https://dot.alaska.gov/uas/>.

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100

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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Airspace Lease Law

Arizona law allows the director of the Arizona Department of Transportation to lease airspace above state roads,¹ which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease air-space above local roads.

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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.²

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Task Force or Program Office

State lawmakers created the Urban Air Mobility Study Committee in 2021.³ The study committee provides recommendations to lawmakers about how to improve passenger drone regulation and commerce.

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Arizona law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.⁴

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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

0

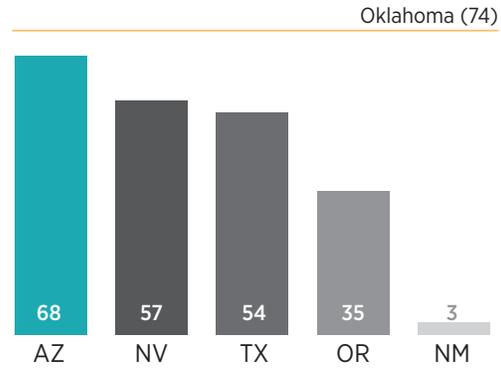
10

Sandbox

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

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

1. ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 28-7048 (2015).
2. § 28-8277 (2018).
3. 2021 ARIZ. SESS. LAWS 197.
4. § 28-8207.

70
100 **STATE SCORE**

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

Factors Helping the State Score**30**
30 **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.

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25 **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

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10 **Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**

Arkansas law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

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5 **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**0**
20 **Task Force or Program Office**

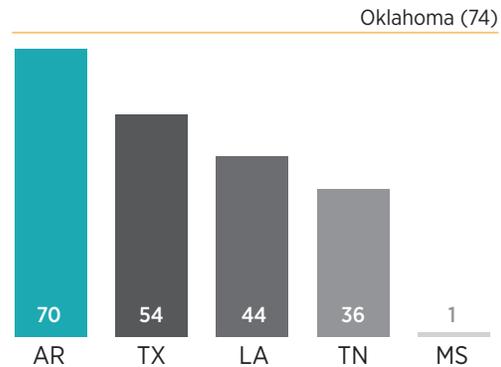
State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

0
10 **Sandbox**

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

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

1. ARK. CODE ANN. § 27-64-101 (2017).
2. § 27-116-102.
3. *Id.*

50

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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.

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25

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

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

California law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

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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

0

20

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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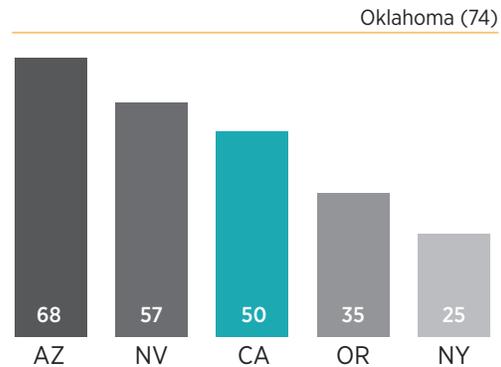
10

Sandbox

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

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

1. CAL. STS. & HIGH. CODE § 104.12 (Deering 2020).
2. CAL. PUB. UTIL. CODE § 21403 (Deering 2020).
3. § 21402.

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

COLORADO

RANK
24
TIED

38
100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25
25

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

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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

3
5

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

0
30

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.

0
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Task Force or Program Office

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

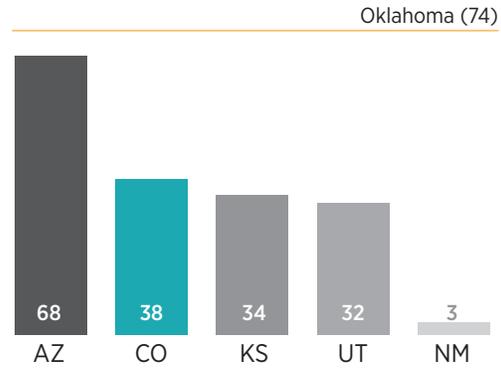
0
10

Sandbox

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

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

1. COLO. REV. STAT. § 13-21-118 (2016).
2. § 41-1-107.
3. § 38-32-101.

24

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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.

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20

Task Force or Program Office

The state legislature produced a one-time drone policy report in 2014.

4

5

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

0

25

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.

0

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

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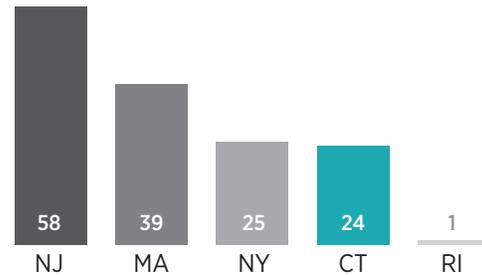
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. CONN. GEN. STAT. ANN. § 13a-80g (West 2018).

47

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

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

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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.

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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

0

30

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.

0

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Sandbox

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

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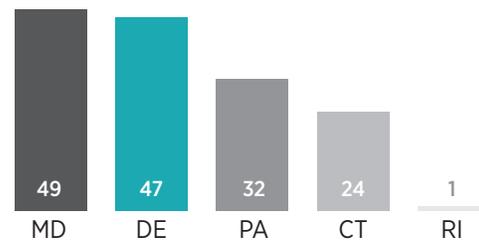
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. DEL. CODE tit. 2, § 304 (2020).
2. § 303.

12

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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

0

25

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.

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Task Force or Program Office

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

0

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

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Sandbox

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

2

5

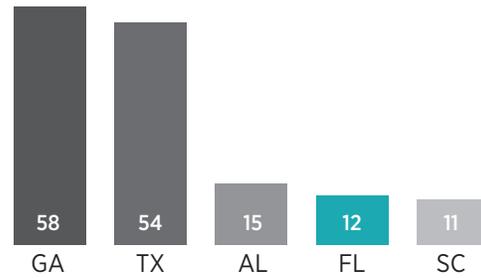
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. FLA. STAT. ANN. § 337.251 (2019).

58

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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.¹ 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.

25

25

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.²

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Task Force or Program Office

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

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Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Georgia law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

3

5

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

0

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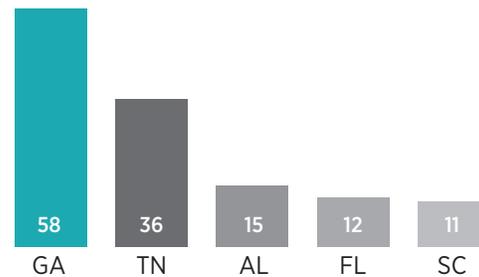
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. GA. CODE ANN. § 32-6-117 (2018).
2. § 6-2-5 (2010).
3. § 44-1-2 (2019).

37

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**25**

25

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

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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**0**

30

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.

0

20

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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Sandbox

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

2

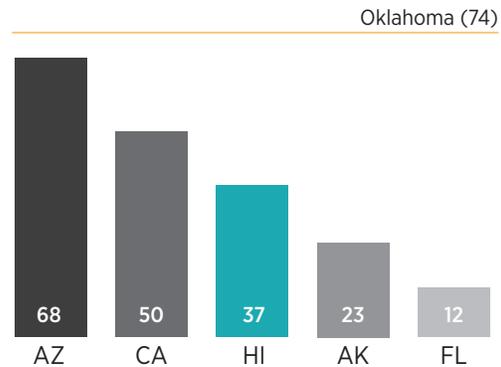
5

Jobs Estimate

Hawaii is in the fourth 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 this case, these peers are selected based on their geographic and political similarities. (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

1. HAW. REV. STAT. § 263-4 (2012).
2. § 263-3.

37

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

Avigation Easement Law

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

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Idaho law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

0

30

Airspace Lease Law

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Sandbox

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

2

5

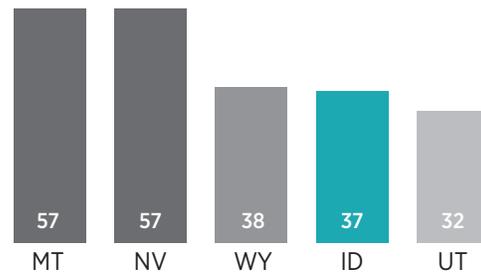
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. IDAHO CODE § 21-204 (2019).
2. § 21-203 (2016).

23

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**10**

30

Airspace Lease Law

Illinois law allows Chicago authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above city streets,¹ 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.²

10

20

Task Force or Program Office

The state had a temporary drone task force in 2016.³

3

5

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**0**

25

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.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

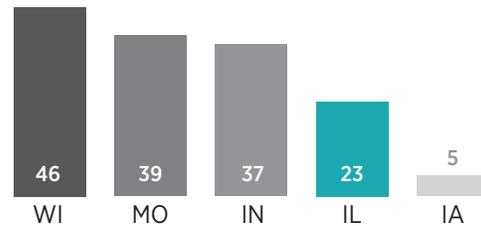
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. 65 ILL. COMP. STAT. 20/21-17 (2019).
2. 5/11-80-8 (2020); 5/11-75-1 (2022).
3. See 20 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5065/15 (2017); repealed in 2018 by 20 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5056/20 (2022).

37

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

Avigation Easement Law

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

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Indiana law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

Factors Hindering the State Score

0

30

Airspace Lease Law

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Sandbox

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

2

5

Jobs Estimate

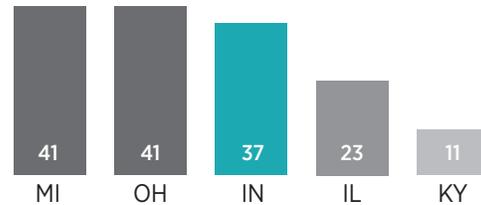
Indiana is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.



Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. IND. CODE § 8-21-4-4 (2018).
2. § 8-21-4-3.

5 STATE SCORE

100

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

Factors Helping the State Score

5 Jobs Estimate

5

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

0 Airspace Lease Law

30

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.

0 Avigation Easement Law

25

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.

0 Task Force or Program Office

20

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

0 Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

10

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

0 Sandbox

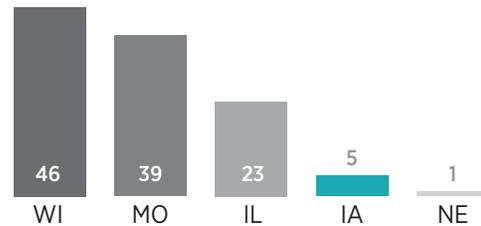
10

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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.

34

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

20

20

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

10

10

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

4

5

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

0

30

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.

0

25

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.

0

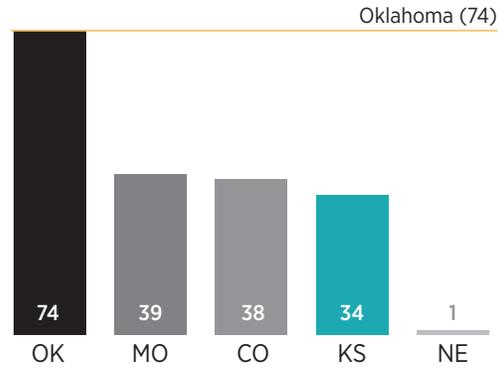
10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

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

1. See Kansas Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation, accessed March 16, 2022, <http://airkansas.org/about.html>.
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/>.

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

KENTUCKY

RANK
43
TIED

11 STATE SCORE

100

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10 Sandbox

10

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

0 Airspace Lease Law

30

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.

0 Avigation Easement Law

25

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.

0 Task Force or Program Office

20

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

0 Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

10

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

1 Jobs Estimate

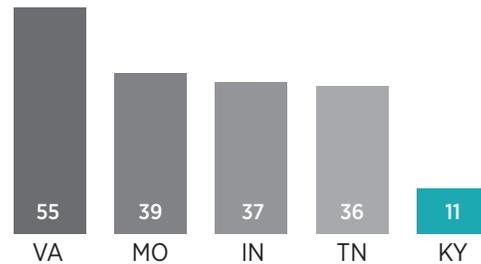
5

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. See "Flight Areas & Facilities," USA Drone Port, accessed March 17, 2022, <https://www.usadroneport.com/flight-areas-facilities>.

44

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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

20

20

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.

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Louisiana law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.⁴

4

5

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

0

25

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.

0

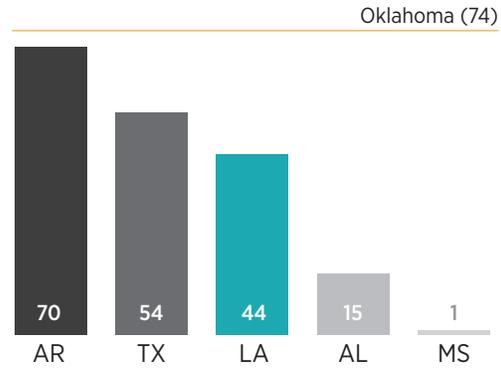
10

Sandbox

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

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

1. LA. REV. STAT. § 33:4712 (2020).
2. § 41:91.
3. § 2:2.1 (2021).
4. § 14:63 (2020).

12

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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.¹ However, the law is silent as to whether state officials can lease airspace above state roads.

Factors Hindering the State Score

0

25

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

Sandbox

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

2

5

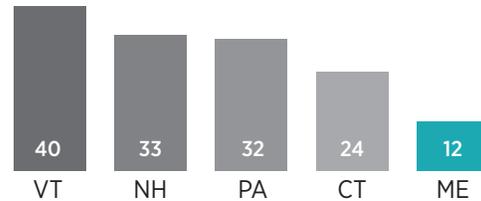
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. ME. REV. STAT. tit. 30-A, § 3551 (2019).

49

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

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

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Maryland law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

10

10

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

5

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

0

30

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.

0

20

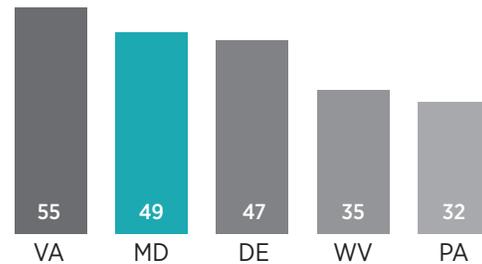
Task Force or Program Office

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 5-1001 (2019).
2. § 5-104 (2020).

39

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**10**

30

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.

25

25

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

4

5

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**0**

20

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 state-wide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

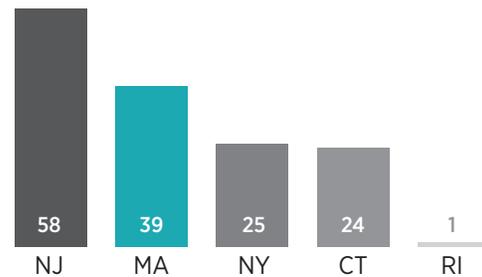
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 6C, § 46 (2020); MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 81, § 7L (2019).
2. MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 90, § 46 (2019).

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

MICHIGAN

RANK
19
TIED

41
100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10
30

Airspace Lease Law

Michigan 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.

20
20

Task Force or Program Office

The state has an active drone task force, overseen by the Michigan Department of Transportation.² The task force was created by the legislature in 2017 and develops policy recommendations on the operation, use, and regulation of drones.

10
10

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

0
25

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.

0
10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

1
5

Jobs Estimate

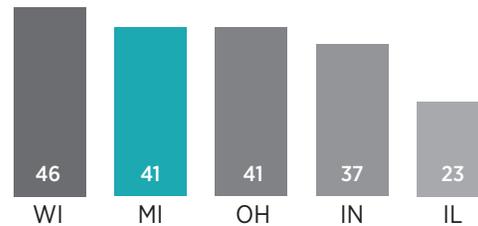
Michigan is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. See MICH. COMP. LAWS § 117.4h (2020) (cities); § 78.24 (2020) (villages); § 42.16 (2020) (townships).
2. Mike Trout, "Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Task Force," Michigan Department of Transportation, accessed June 2, 2022, <https://www.michigan.gov/aero/business/pilots/uas-task-force>.

66

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

Airspace Lease Law

Minnesota law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above “trunk 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 and whether airspace above non-trunk highways can be leased.

25

25

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.²

20

20

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.³

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Minnesota law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.⁴

Factors Hindering the State Score

0

10

Sandbox

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

1

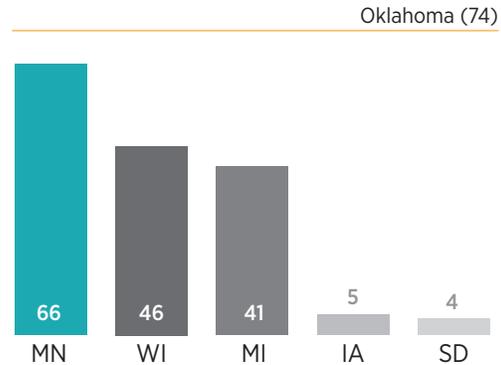
5

Jobs Estimate

Minnesota 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.

Notes

1. MINN. STAT. § 161.433 (2019).
2. § 360.012.
3. See “UAS Information for Communities,” Office of Aeronautics, Minnesota Department of Transportation, accessed March 16, 2022, <http://dot.state.mn.us/aero/drones/communities.html>.
4. § 360.012(2).

1
100**STATE SCORE**

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

Factors Hindering the State Score**0**
30**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.

0
25**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.

0
20**Task Force or Program Office**

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

0
10**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**

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

0
10**Sandbox**

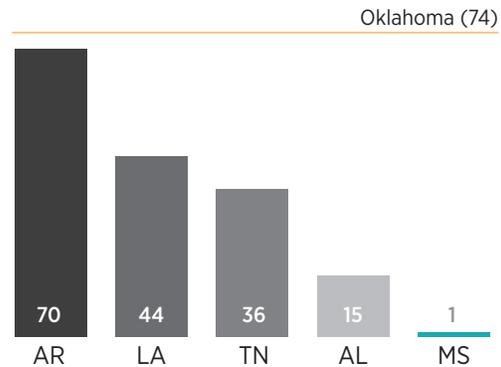
Mississippi does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

1
5**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

RANK
22
TIED

39
100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25
25

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

10
10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Missouri law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

4
5

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

0
30

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.

0
20

Task Force or Program Office

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

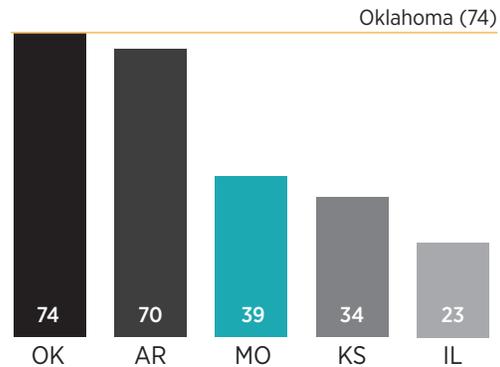
0
10

Sandbox

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

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

1. Mo. REV. STAT. § 305.030 (2018).
2. § 305.020 (2012).

2022 DRONE SCORECARD

MONTANA

RANK
9
TIED

57
100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25
25

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

20
20

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 state-wide policy recommendations regarding residents’ property rights and privacy expectations.

10
10

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

0
30

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.

0
10

Sandbox

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

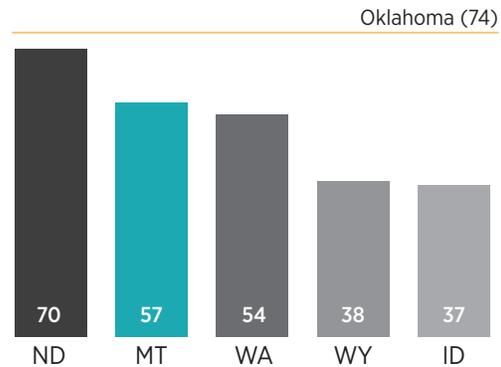
2
5

Jobs Estimate

Montana is in the fourth 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.

Notes

1. MONT. CODE ANN. § 67-1-204 (2019).
2. § 67-1-203.

1
100**STATE SCORE**

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

Factors Hindering the State Score**0**
30**Airspace Lease Law**

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.

0
25**Avigation Easement Law**

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.

0
20**Task Force or Program Office**

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

0
10**Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights**

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

0
10**Sandbox**

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

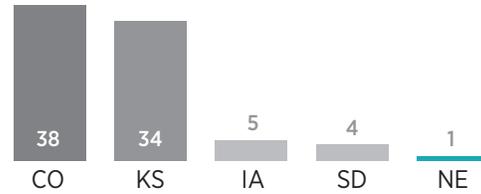
1
5**Jobs Estimate**

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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.

57

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

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

20

20

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

10

10

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

0

30

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.

0

10

Sandbox

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

2

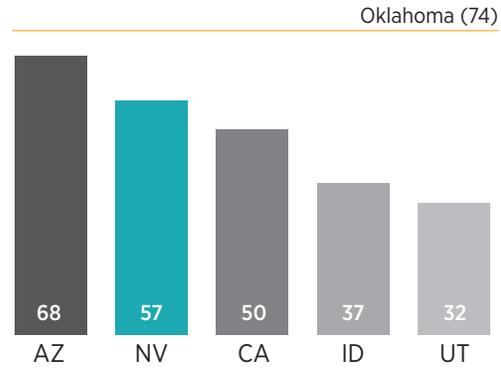
5

Jobs Estimate

Nevada is in the fourth 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.

Notes

1. NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 493.050(1) (2017).
2. Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems, accessed May 3, 2022, <https://nias-uas.com/about/> (website is under construction).
3. § 493.040 (2013).

33

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

30

30

Airspace Lease Law

New Hampshire 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.

3

5

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

0

25

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

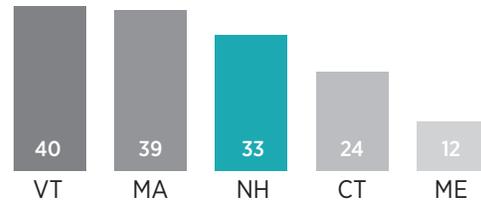
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 236:18 (2017); § 48-B:2 (2018).

58

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

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

20

20

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.

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

New Jersey law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

3

5

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

0

30

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.

0

10

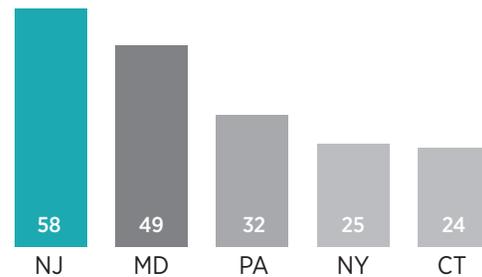
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. N.J. REV. STAT. § 6:2-6 (2013).
2. Glenn Stott and Kinan Tadmori, "Drone Program Takes Off in Bureau of Aeronautics," *NJDOT Technology Transfer*, January 24, 2018, <https://www.njdottechtransfer.net/2018/01/24/drone-program-takes-off-bureau-aeronautics/>.
3. § 6:2-5; § 46:3-19.

3 STATE SCORE

100

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

Factors Helping the State Score

3 Jobs Estimate

5

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

0 Airspace Lease Law

30

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.

0 Avigation Easement Law

25

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.

0 Task Force or Program Office

20

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

0 Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

10

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

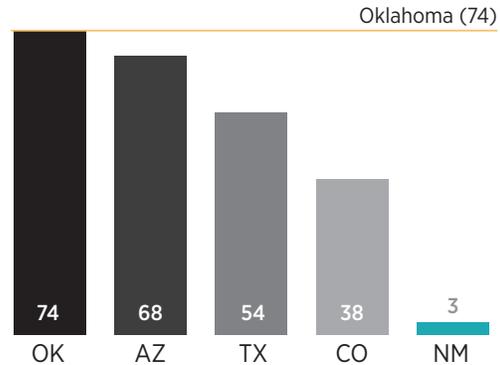
0 Sandbox

10

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

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.

25

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

Airspace Lease Law

New York 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.

10

10

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.²

5

5

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

0

25

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

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

2. See “The Multi-Million Dollar Corridor Creates Unparalleled Drone Testing Capability,” NUAIR, November 13, 2019, <https://nuair.org/2019/11/13/governor-cuomo-announces-completion-of-50-mile-drone-corridor/>.

58

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**25**

25

Avigation Easement LawNorth 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**20**

20

Task Force or Program OfficeThe state has a drone program office in the Division of Aviation with the goal of promoting economic development and airport safety.²**10**

10

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

5

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**0**

30

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.

0

10

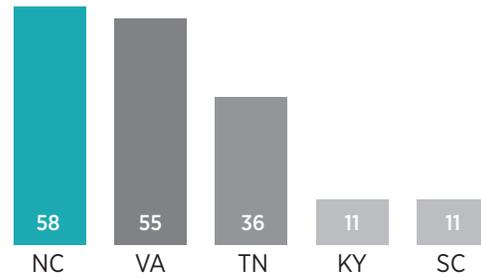
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. N.C. GEN. STAT. § 63-13 (2019).
2. "Unmanned Aircraft Systems," North Carolina Department of Transportation, December 6, 2019, <https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/aviation/uas/Pages/default.aspx>.
3. § 63-12.

70

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

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

20

20

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.

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

North Dakota law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³

10

10

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

5

5

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

0

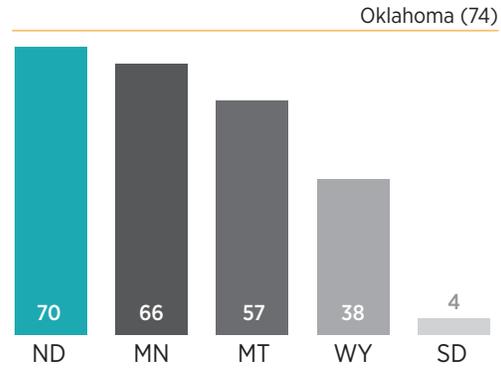
30

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.

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

1. N.D. CENT. CODE § 2-03-04 (2019).
2. "Executive Team," Northern Plains UAS Test Site, accessed June 7, 2022, <https://www.npuasts.com/team>.
3. § 2-03-03.
4. See "Space to Grow," Vantis, accessed March 17, 2022, <https://www.vantisuas.com/why-north-dakota>.

41

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**10**

30

Airspace Lease LawOhio law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above state roads,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.**20**

20

Task Force or Program OfficeThe 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 71.²**10**

10

SandboxOhio 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.³**Factors Hindering the State Score****0**

25

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.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

1

5

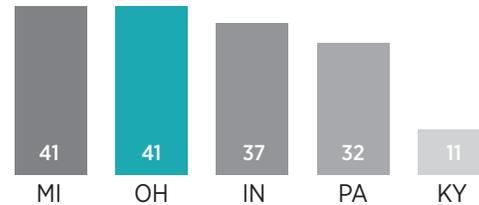
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. OHIO REV. CODE § 5501.45 (2003).
2. See Rubén Del Rosario, "Infrastructure to Support Advanced Autonomous Aircraft Technologies in Ohio" (Project No. 111453, Ohio Department of Transportation, Columbus, OH, June 2021), <https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p267401ccp2/id/21062/rec/1>.
3. See "SkyVision," Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center, accessed March 17, 2022, <https://uas.ohio.gov/skyvision/skyvision>.

74

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

30

30

Airspace Lease Law

Oklahoma law allows public authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above local roads, state roads, and state property,¹ which allows state or local officials to create drone high-ways above these areas.

20

20

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-take-off-and-landing aircraft.²

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Oklahoma law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.³ 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.⁴

10

10

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.⁵

4

5

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

0

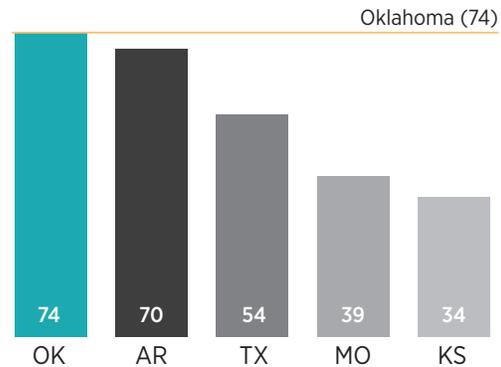
25

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.

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

1. OKLA. STAT. tit. 60, § 812 (2019).
2. OKLA. STAT. tit. 3, § 374 (2020).
3. OKLA. STAT. tit. 60, § 802 (2016).
4. § 805 (2014).
5. See “Choctaw Nation BEYOND,” Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, accessed March 17, 2022, <https://www.cnoaa.com/#operations>.

35

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**30**

30

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.

5

5

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**0**

25

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Oregon law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.²

0

10

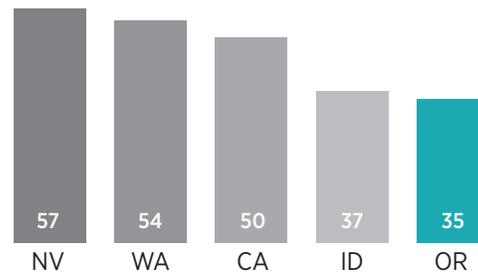
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. OR. REV. STAT. § 271.430 (2019).
2. See OR. REV. STAT. § 837.380 (2020).

32

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**20**

20

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.

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Pennsylvania law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.¹

Factors Hindering the State Score**0**

30

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.

0

25

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.

0

10

Sandbox

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

2

5

Jobs Estimate

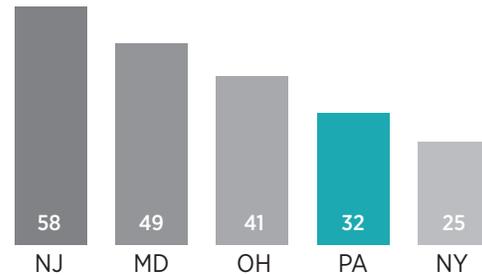
Pennsylvania is in the fourth quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.



Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. 68 PA. STAT. REAL & PERSONAL PROP. § 802.

1 STATE SCORE

100

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

Factors Hindering the State Score

0 Airspace Lease Law

30

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.

0 Avigation Easement Law

25

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.

0 Task Force or Program Office

20

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

0 Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

10

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

0 Sandbox

10

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

1 Jobs Estimate

5

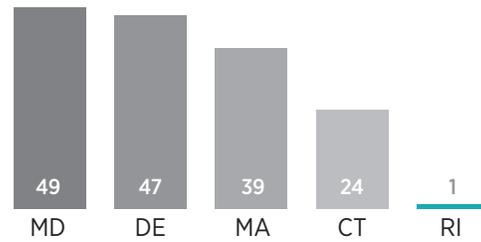
Rhode Island is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.



Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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.

11

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**10**

30

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**0**

25

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

Sandbox

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

1

5

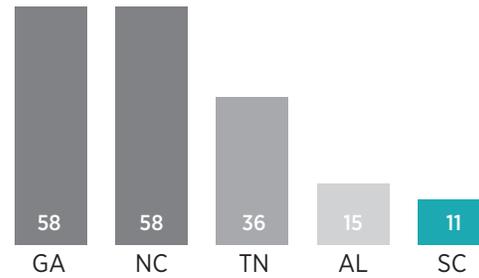
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. S.C. CODE ANN. § 5-7-50 (2020).

4 STATE SCORE

100

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

Factors Helping the State Score

4 Jobs Estimate

5

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

0 Airspace Lease Law

30

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.

0 Avigation Easement Law

25

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

0 Task Force or Program Office

20

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

0 Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

10

South Dakota law does not expressly provide air rights to landowners, which raises litigation risk for drone operators.²

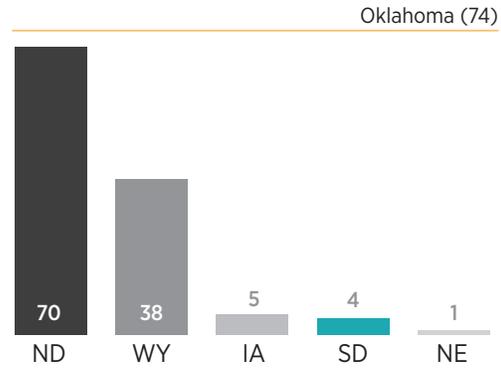
0 Sandbox

10

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

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

1. South Dakota had an avigation easement law until 2019. See S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 50-13-4 (repealed 2019).
2. South Dakota law expressly vested landowners with air rights until 2019. See S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 50-13-3 (repealed 2019).

36

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

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

10

10

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

0

30

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Sandbox

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

1

5

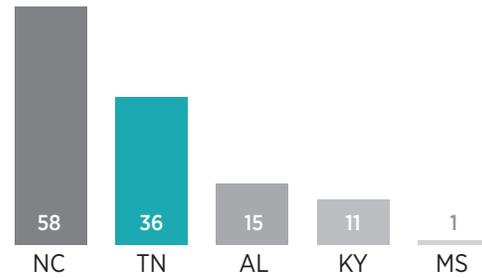
Jobs Estimate

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. TENN. CODE ANN. § 42-1-104(a) (2018).
2. § 42-1-103 (2014).

54

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

30

30

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.

20

20

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.

4

5

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

0

25

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.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

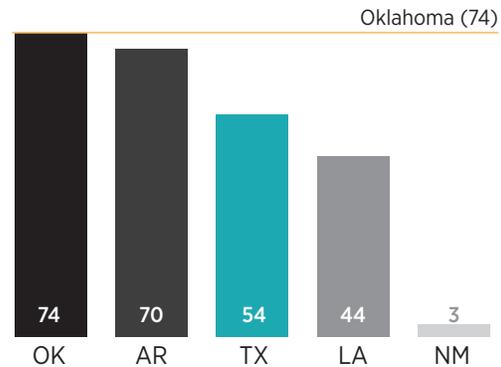
Sandbox

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



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

1. TEX. TRANSP. CODE ANN. § 202.052 (2019); TEX. LOC. GOV'T CODE ANN. § 373.005 (2019).
2. TEX. TRANSP. CODE ANN. § 21.004 (2021).

32

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**20**

20

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.

10

10

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**0**

30

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

0

25

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.

0

10

Sandbox

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

2

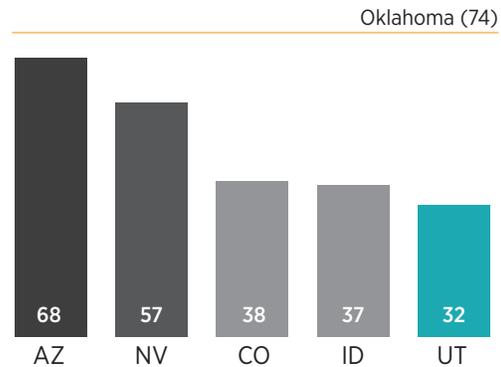
5

Jobs Estimate

Utah is in the fourth 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.

Notes

1. "Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Advanced Air Mobility," UDOT, <https://site.utah.gov/connect/employee-resources/uas/>.
2. UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-6-206 (2020).
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).

40

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

25

25

Avigation Easement Law

Vermont 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

10

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Vermont law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²

5

5

Jobs Estimate

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

Factors Hindering the State Score

0

30

Airspace Lease Law

Vermont 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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

The state created a UAS program within the Vermont State Police. However, the program's main use is governmental. State leaders should consider convening a statewide drone task force or creating a drone program office.

0

10

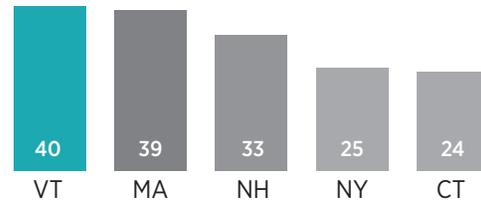
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 5, § 403 (1985).
2. § 402.

55

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

30

30

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

20

20

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.

5

5

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

0

25

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.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

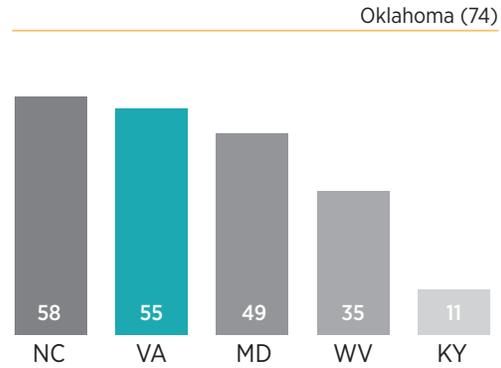
10

Sandbox

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

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

1. VA. CODE ANN. § 33.2-226 (2022) (leasing airspace above state highways); § 15.2-2030 (2022) (leasing airspace above local roads).

54

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**30**

30

Airspace Lease LawWashington 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.**20**

20

Task Force or Program Office

The Washington Department of Transportation created and oversees a program office devoted to drone technologies.

4

5

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**0**

25

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.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

Sandbox

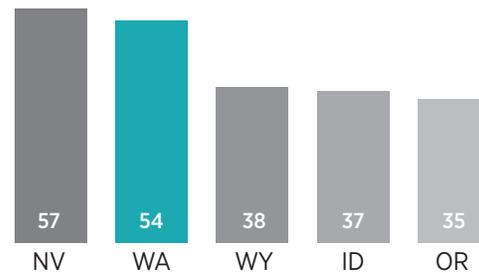
Washington does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.



Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 35.22.302 (2019); § 47.12.120.

35

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**10**

30

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.¹ However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads.

20

20

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.²

5

5

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**0**

25

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.

0

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

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

0

10

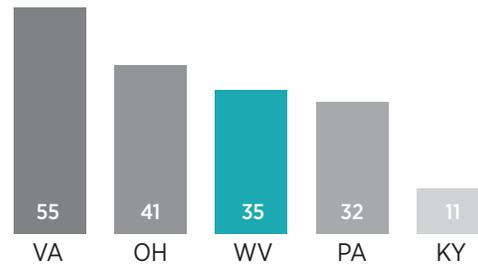
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. W. VA. CODE § 17-2A-19a (2019).
2. § 5B-2-18 (2022).

46

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score

10

30

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.

25

25

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

10

10

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

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

Sandbox

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

1

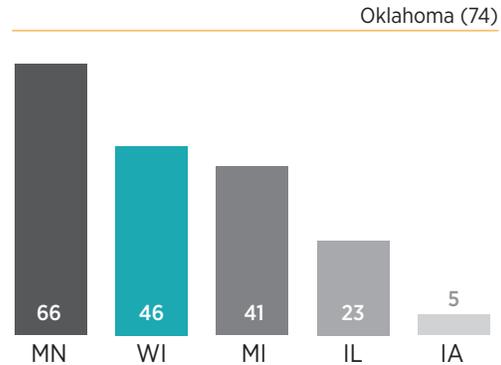
5

Jobs Estimate

Wisconsin 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.

Notes

1. Wis. STAT. § 66.0915 (2019).
2. § 114.04.
3. § 114.03.

38

100

STATE SCORE

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

Factors Helping the State Score**25**

25

Avigation Easement LawWyoming 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**10**

10

Law Vesting Landowners with Air RightsWyoming law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.²**3**

5

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**0**

30

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.

0

20

Task Force or Program Office

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

0

10

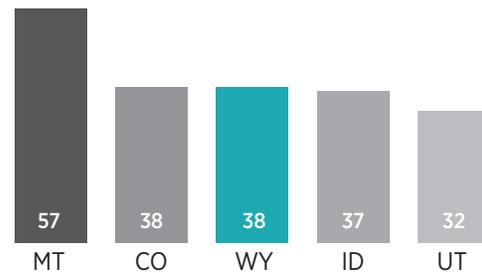
Sandbox

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

Peer State Comparisons by Score

Oklahoma (74)

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

1. WYO. STAT. § 10-4-303 (2018).
2. § 10-4-302.

NA STATE SCORE

100

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

Factors Helping the Territory Score

10 Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

10

Puerto Rico law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.¹

Factors Hindering the Territory Score

0 Airspace Lease Law

30

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.

0 Avigation Easement Law

25

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.

0 Task Force or Program Office

20

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

0 Sandbox

10

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

NA Jobs Estimate

5

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).