

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).