

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
REVISOR *of* STATUTES

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
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MEMORANDUM

To: The House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: 2/12/2026

Re: H.B. 2687, As introduced. Prohibiting any governmental agency from regulating landings, takeoffs or the operation of aquatic aircraft on waters of the state.

H.B. 2687 would prohibit any governmental agency¹ that owns, controls or has jurisdiction over waters of the state² from prohibiting the takeoff, landing or operation of an aquatic aircraft³ or regulate or require a permit or fee for the operation of an aquatic aircraft. These prohibitions would only apply in areas where boats (vessels⁴) are permitted.⁵

H.B. 2687 would become effective upon publication in the statute book.

¹ "Governmental agency" means any officer, department, bureau, division, board, authority, agency, commission or institution of the federal government, state government or any political subdivision of the state thereof.

² "Waters of the state" means any waters within the territorial limits of this state.

³ "Aquatic aircraft" means any motorized aircraft, seaplane, floatplane or similar aircraft that is capable of taking off or landing on water.

⁴ "Vessel" means any watercraft designed to be propelled by machinery, oars, paddles or wind action upon a sail for navigation on the water. "Vessel" does not include aquatic aircraft.

⁵ K.A.R. 115-8-13 states that "motorized aircraft landings and takeoffs shall be allowed in designated areas only or as authorized by the secretary". K.S.A. 3-701 et seq. gives political subdivisions of the state the authority to administer airport zoning regulations. "Airport" is defined in those statutes to mean "any area of land or water designed and set aside for the landing and taking-off of aircraft and utilized or to be utilized in the interest of the public for such purposes, and also means any military airfield." However, the United States government has exclusive sovereignty of airspace of the United States and the administrator of the FAA has express statutory authority to prescribe air traffic regulations to prevent the collisions between aircraft and water vehicles (49 U.S.C. § 40103). Additionally, waters managed by the army corp of engineers are subject to additional regulations. The operation of aircraft on project lands at locations other than those designated by the District commander is prohibited (36 C.F.R. § 328.6, 36 C.F.R. § 327.4).