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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2021 Wisconsin Act 52**  
2021 Senate Bill 237

**Operation of Drones Over  
Correctional Facilities**

### BACKGROUND

Prior law prohibited any person from operating a drone over a correctional institution, including any grounds of the institution. A person violating this prohibition may be subject to a civil forfeiture penalty of up to \$5,000.

### 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 52

2021 Wisconsin Act 52 creates an exception to this prohibition. Under the act, a person may operate a drone over the grounds of an institution that is a state facility if the person has express authorization from the secretary of the Department of Corrections, or his or her designee, or over an institution that is a county facility, if the person has express authorization from the sheriff of the county, or his or her designee.

**Effective date:** The act took effect on June 24, 2021.

AO:AM:jal