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Overview

This bill modifies regulation of unmanned aircraft. Under the bill, unmanned aircraft weighing under 55 pounds are not subject to the aircraft registration tax, and instead (1) must be registered with a \$25 fee; or (2) for unmanned aircraft used only for recreational purposes, registration is not required and there is no fee. The bill also prevents a tax refund for unmanned aircraft systems that are destroyed or removed from the state, but provides for refunding the aircraft registration tax if the person also registers the aircraft under the new \$25 fee structure.

Section

- 1 Unmanned aircraft.** Defines an unmanned aircraft for the chapter on aeronautics.
- 2 Unmanned aircraft system.** Defines an unmanned aircraft system for the chapter on aeronautics.
- 3 Unmanned aircraft systems.** Requires registration and payment of a \$25 fee for unmanned aircraft that have a takeoff weight of under 55 pounds. For unmanned aircraft that are under the 55 pounds weight limit and are owned and operated only for recreation, registration is not required and no fee is due. The fee or fee exemption for applicable unmanned aircraft is instead of the current aircraft registration tax (which varies based on aircraft price, with a minimum of \$100).
- 4 Tax refund.** Modifies an aircraft tax refund provision so that refunds are not available for unmanned aircraft that are destroyed or removed from the state.

Section

5 **Unmanned aircraft registration tax refund; appropriation.** Provides for refund of the aircraft registration tax if the person also registers the aircraft under the \$25 fee structure established in section 3. Appropriates the amount necessary for refunds from the state airports fund.