



**National Conference of State Legislatures
Office of State-Federal Relations**

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DOT Announces Drone Registration Rule

On Dec. 14, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) unveiled an interim final rule for [drone registration](#) that would require consumers who own drones between .55 lbs. and 55 lbs. to register their craft by Feb. 19, 2016. Drones purchased after Dec. 21, 2015, must be registered before the first outdoor flight. Everyone will be able to register online and the [registration website](#) will go live on Dec. 21.

Per the rule, consumers can register as many drones as they like, but each will be required to have the owner's contact information and unique registration number visible on the craft. Registrations, which are valid for three years, will have a fee of \$5 per individual owner. However, the FAA stated it will waive the registration fee for the first 30 days of the program (from Dec. 21, 2015-Jan 20, 2016) to encourage early registration.

Under the proposal the FAA can impose a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 or criminal penalties of up to \$250,000 and three years in prison for noncompliance.

In late November, the DOT-established Unmanned Aircraft Systems Registration Task Force released a set of recommendations on drone registration. Many of these recommendations have been incorporated into this proposal except for a recommendation that drone registration should not have a fee associated with it. See [NCSL's Info Alert](#) for more details on the task force recommendations.

FAA issued this as an interim final rule, which means it will go into effect immediately upon publication in the Federal Register. The agency will still accept public comments for 30 days. It is possible that FAA could alter the interim rule if warranted by the public comments, but for all intents and purposes this rule will be effective Dec. 21, 2015.

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