

The Drone Espionage Act

This bill protects our national security by making it illegal to take drone video footage of national defense sites.

Key Legislative Provisions

- The Drone Espionage Act updates the Espionage Act of 1917 to include videography of sensitive national defense sites as a crime.
- This act amends Sec. 793 of the Espionage Act by adding “video” to the list of criminal information-gathering means by those seeking to harm the national defense.

Background

- Drones are increasingly used by America's adversaries, particularly China, to capture video of sensitive national defense sites.
- It is already illegal under The Espionage Act to take photos of national defense sites, but the statute makes no mention of videography.
- This bill ensures those who take video, particularly using a drone, can be punished under the Espionage Act with a fine, ten years imprisonment, or both.
- Federal prosecutors have successfully prosecuted several foreign agents using the Espionage Act, and this gives them a tool to directly prosecute foreign agents who use drone videography.



Congresswoman
Jen Kiggans
Virginia's 2nd District