

Department of Public Safety Report  
House and Senate Judiciary  
House and Senate Government Operations  
On  
2018 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use



This document serves as the 2018 reporting requirement mandated by Section 4624 of Title 20. By statute, law enforcement agencies are required to send the Department of Public Safety (DPS) information related to any drone use within the previous 12 months. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(a). Annually, DPS must forward the information collected pursuant to subsection (a) of this statute to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(b).

Vermont law enforcement agencies must report to DPS the following information:

- (1) The number of times the agency used a drone within the previous 12 months. For each use of a drone, the agency shall report the type of incident involved, the nature of the information collected, and the rationale for deployment of the drone.
- (2) The number of criminal investigations aided and arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months, including a description of how the drone aided each investigation or arrest.
- (3) The number of times a drone collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months and the type of data collected in each instance.
- (4) The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.

*See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(a).

In accordance with statute, DPS submits the following 2018 law enforcement drone usage information received from the Capitol Police:

- 1. The number of times the agency used a drone within the previous 12 months. For each use of a drone, the agency shall report the type of incident involved, the nature of the information collected, and the rationale for deployment of the drone.**
  - The Capitol Police report deploying a drone twice in the previous 12 months to document the Dome Restoration Project.
- 2. The number of criminal investigations aided and arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months, including a description of how the drone aided each investigation or arrest.**
  - The Capitol Police report their drone use was not related to a criminal investigation and did not aid in such an investigation or result in criminal arrests.

- 3. The number of times a drone collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months and the type of data collected in each instance.**
  - The Capitol Police report their drone usage did not collect data on any person, home, or other areas.
- 4. The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.**
  - The Capitol Police report no costs associated with their drone use.