

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

(a) In addition to the other purposes for which expenditures may be made by the above agency from the moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2017 for such state agency as authorized by chapter 104 of the 2015 Session Laws of Kansas, 2016 House Substitute for Senate Bill 161, this or other appropriation act of the 2016 or 2017 regular session of the legislature, expenditures may be made by such state agency from moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2017 for the purposes of directing the director of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to focus on research and development efforts through and between state educational institutions, as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto: *Provided*, That the director shall work with state educational institutions on the development and growth of new and existing UAS research and development programs: *Provided further*, That the director shall work with the state educational institutions on the creation of partnerships with the UAS industry to develop and sustain public-private partnerships focused on UAS research and development in Kansas: *And provided further*, That the director shall work in conjunction with the department of commerce to develop economic development initiatives related to the UAS program and the work of the state educational institutions: *And provided further*, That the director shall work with local governments and economic development groups, in conjunction with the state educational institutions, in the communities of the state educational institutions on local economic growth initiatives centered on the UAS industry: *And provided further*, That the director shall work with Kansas local governments to promote the benefits of a robust Kansas UAS industry to the general public and work to ensure any locally developed UAS policies or ordinances are consistent with state and federal regulation: *And provided further*, That the director shall work to position the state educational institutions as national leaders for UAS research and development and the state of Kansas as a national leader within the UAS industry: *And provided further*, That the director shall develop relationships with national leaders within the UAS industry and national intergovernmental, transportation and UAS organizations to better position the state of Kansas and the state educational institutions as national leaders with the UAS industry: *And provided further*, That the director shall work, in conjunction with the state educational institutions, to seek out and apply for grants to advance UAS research and development programs: *And provided further*, That the director shall study the use of UAS for purposes of inspection and surveillance methods in conjunction the department of transportation, the Kansas national guard, Kansas highway patrol, the Kansas Bureau of investigation and state educational institutions UAS programs in the UAS triangle. The director shall report to legislature on areas where cooperation in training and usage of UAS for inspection and surveillance methods is occurring or may occur in the future: *And provided further*, That the director shall use office space made available the by Kansas state university polytechnic campus for at least half of the director's office time: *And provided further*, That the director shall make recommendations regarding state laws and rules and regulations which are complimentary to federal UAS regulatory and policy efforts and balance privacy concerns with the need for robust UAS economic development in the state of Kansas: *And provided further*, That the director shall develop a five-year strategic plan regarding research and development efforts through and between the state educational institutions and provide a report to the legislature on the implementation of this plan on or before the first day of the 2017 regular legislative session.