

U.S. SENATOR SEEKS DRONE BAN NEAR AIRPORTS AND BIG EVENTS

News / Airlines



Sen. Charles Schumer wants lawmakers to force drone manufacturers to implement technology that would keep the unmanned flying objects away from airports, parades and major sporting events.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Saturday, Schumer said he would introduce an amendment this week to the [FAA reauthorization bill](#), which funds the Federal Aviation Administration.

Under his proposal, drones sold or operated in the U.S. would need geo-fencing technology that prevents them from operating within two miles of an airport or above 500 feet, Schumer said. The amendment would also encourage the FAA to enact policies forbidding drones in other “sensitive locations,” like sporting events, parades or near the Pentagon.

“God forbid a drone was sucked into the engine of a passenger airline that was flying, it’d be a huge tragedy,” he said. “And it’s a matter of time before that happens.”

Under current regulations, drone pilots must get clearance to fly within 5 miles of a sizeable airport in most cases. The FAA also notified drone enthusiasts in October that the law does not allow them to fly the aircraft near Major League Baseball, NFL and NCAA Division I college football games and major auto races.

Schumer said his amendment was an “elegant solution” to a rise in drone incidents at sporting events and parades across the country. He believed the proposal will pass this month with bipartisan support among legislators.

Schumer pointed to an incident earlier this month where a drone buzzed above a match at the U.S. Open before it crashed into empty seats in the stadium. A high school science teacher who had been flying the drone in a park surrounding the tennis center was arrested on a reckless endangerment charge.

“Somebody could attach weaponry to them, or explosives,” Schumer said. “No one has yet, but sooner or later someone will think of that.”

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