

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
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DATE: June 15, 2025

TO: Representative Peggy Scott, Co-Chair, House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee
Representative Tina Liebling, Co-Chair, House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee
Representative Paul Novotny, Co-Chair, House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Representative Kelly Moller, Co-Chair, House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Senator Ron Latz, Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Senator Warren Limmer, Lead, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

CC: Legislative Reference Library

RE: Minn. Stat. § 626.19, subd. 12(d)
Report to Legislature by the State Court Administrator

Minn. Stat. § 626.19 governs how law enforcement agencies use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Minn. Stat. § 626.19, subd. 11(c) requires that by January 15 of each year, a judge who has issued or denied approval of a warrant under Minn. Stat. § 626.19 that expired during the preceding year shall report to the state court administrator:

- (1) that a warrant or extension was applied for;
- (2) the type of warrant or extension applied for;
- (3) whether the warrant or extension was granted as applied for, modified, or denied;
- (4) the period of UAV use authorized by the warrant and the number and duration of any extensions of the warrant;
- (5) the offense specified in the warrant or application or extension of a warrant; and
- (6) the identity of the law enforcement agency making the application and the person authorizing the application

Minn. Stat. § 626.19, subd. 12(d) requires the State Court Administrator (SCAO) by June 15 of every year to file with the legislature and post on the supreme court's website a full and complete report

concerning the number of applications for warrants authorizing or approving use of UAVs or disclosure of information from the use of UAVs under this section and the number of warrants and extensions granted or denied under this section during the preceding calendar year. The report must include a summary and analysis of the data required to be filed with the state court administrator under paragraph (c).

Between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024, three UAV warrants were applied for.

District	Total granted, denied, or modified
7	2 granted
9	1 granted
Grand total	3 granted

Offense	Total count of granted warrants that list a particular offense (warrants may list more than one offense)
Narcotics	1
Missing Person	1
Fugitive	1
Grand total	3

Order Duration	Total count
10 days	1
90 days	1
Not reported to SCAO	1
Grand total	3

Agency	Total Count
County Sheriff	1
Police	1
State Agency	1
Grand total	3