

66

100

## STATE SCORE

Scores are on a 100-point scale; maximum points are noted in lower-right corners.

### Factors Helping the State Score

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30

#### Airspace Lease Law

Minnesota law allows state authorities to lease low-altitude airspace above trunk highways,<sup>1</sup> which allows state officials to create drone highways above these roadways. However, the law is silent as to whether local officials can lease airspace above local roads and whether airspace above non-trunk highways can be leased.

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#### Avigation Easement Law

Minnesota law creates an avigation easement, which means drone operators are protected from nuisance and trespass laws as long as their drones do not disturb people on the ground.<sup>2</sup>

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#### Task Force or Program Office

The state has a drone program office in the Office of Aeronautics that provides guidance to commercial users and local officials.

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#### Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

Minnesota law expressly provides air rights to landowners, which reduces litigation risk for drone operators.<sup>3</sup>

### Factors Hindering the State Score

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#### Sandbox

Minnesota does not have a drone sandbox. State officials should consider dedicating state facilities and airspace to commercial drone testing.

1

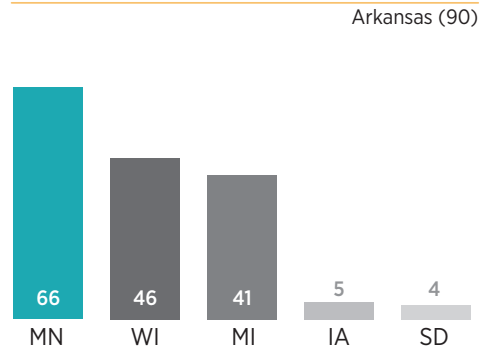
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#### Jobs Estimate

Minnesota is in the bottom quintile when it comes to the number of drone-related jobs per 100,000 people.

## Peer State Comparisons by Score

Commercial drone readiness scores vary across the nation. To give state leaders and residents insight into how their state compares, we have provided the scores of four state peers. In this case, these peers are selected because of their geographic and political similarities. (The top line illustrates the top score in 2023.)



## Definitions

### Airspace Lease Law

States receive points for having laws that allow state and local authorities to lease airspace above public roadways. These laws allow officials in the future to create drone highways safely, away from airports and residential areas.

### Avigation Easement Law

States receive points for expressly creating an avigation easement, meaning that drones (and planes) are free to fly over private property as long as they do not disturb those on the ground.

### Task Force or Program Office

States receive points if they have an active statewide task force or a program office dedicated to commercial drone services.

### Law Vesting Landowners with Air Rights

States receive points for having a law that expressly vests landowners with air rights. This law reduces litigation risk by putting drone operators on notice that drone flights that are too low or disruptive to landowners are not permitted.

### Sandbox

States receive points if they have dedicated state facilities and airspace for commercial drone testing.

### Jobs Estimate

This score is based on the number of drone jobs per 100,000 people; estimated using ZipRecruiter data.

## Notes

1. MINN. STAT. § 161.433 (2019).
2. § 360.012 (2022).
3. § 360.012(2) (2022).