

RESPONSIBLE ROBOTICS ACT

PROHIBITING THE WEAPONIZATION OF ROBOTS



Sen. Michael Moore (S.2483) & Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (H.4103)

BACKGROUND

Advanced mobile robots are beneficial to many industries across Massachusetts, including energy, conservation, construction, manufacturing, and public safety. However, as these robots become increasingly accessible and dynamic, the state should establish basic guardrails to make sure they are not misused. In the movies, futuristic robots are often tools of mayhem and violence; in the Commonwealth, we want to make sure robots are only used to help people, and never to hurt them.

An Act to ensure the responsible use of advanced robotic technologies will ensure that advanced robotics are used ethically and safely and strengthen public confidence in this innovative technology in the Commonwealth.

A BALANCED BILL

The Responsible Robotics Act will:

- Prohibit the manufacture, sale, use or operation of a robotic device or drone that is mounted with a weapon.
- Prohibit the use of robots to threaten or harass anyone.
- Not affect the U.S. Department of Defense, its military contractors, or companies that obtain a waiver from the Attorney General to test anti-weaponization technologies.
- Allow bomb squads to use advanced robots to disable suspected explosives and protect public safety.
- Clarify that warrants are needed when entry onto private property is made by a robot, except in exigent circumstances, just as it would be for an officer.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Massachusetts leads the nation in developing and producing advanced robotics technologies. It should also lead the nation in establishing a framework for their safe and ethical use. This bill would be the first piece of legislation of its kind enacted in the United States.