

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 613

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

AIRCRAFT/AIRPORTS: Creates the Iberia Parish Airport Authority

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 2 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statute of
3 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 2:350.1 through 350.6, relative to the creation of the
4 Acadiana Regional Airport and the Lemaire Memorial Airport District; to provide
5 for powers, duties, functions and governance of the district; to provide for the
6 composition and tenure of the board of commissioners, officers, domicile, and
7 authority; to provide specific authority to the board upon an approval date by the
8 Federal Aviation Administration; to provide for local government compliance; to
9 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

10 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
11 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
12 Louisiana.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 2 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised
15 Statute of 1950, comprised of R.S. 2:350.1 through 350.6 are hereby enacted to read as
16 follows:

17 SUBPART D. PARISH AIRPORT DISTRICTS

18 §350.1. Acadiana Regional Airport and the Lemaire Memorial Airport District;
19 Creation

1 There is hereby created, The Acadiana Regional Airport and Lemaire
2 Memorial Airport District" hereinafter referred to as the "district". The district shall
3 be a political subdivision of the state within the meaning of Article VI, Sections 30
4 through 33 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and those provisions of the Louisiana
5 Revised Statutes of 1950, applicable to airport districts and the levy of taxes, the
6 incurring of debt, and the issuing of bonds by those districts.

7 §350.2. Domicile

8 A. The domicile of the district shall be New Iberia Parish. The domicile
9 provided by appropriate action of the board of commissioners, said domicile may be
10 at any place located within the boundaries of the district, or may be the seat of any
11 political subdivision a portion of which is included within the boundaries of the
12 district.

13 B. The boundaries of the district shall be coterminous with the boundaries
14 of Iberia Parish, consisting of Acadiana Regional Airport and LeMaire Memorial
15 Airport as per plats reflecting the aeronautical, commercial, industrial and
16 agricultural areas of the former area known as the "Naval Station" and "Police Jury
17 Airport" in New Iberia and the LeMaire Memorial Airport in Jeanerette.

18 C. The district shall maintain suitable offices in New Iberia Parish.

19 §350.3. Board of commissioners; appointments; terms; vacancies; qualifications

20 A.(1) The district shall be governed by a board of commissioners, referred
21 to in this Subpart as the "board".

22 (2) The board shall consist of seven members all of whom shall be citizens
23 of the United States. The members of the board shall be appointed as follows:

24 (a) Two members shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Iberia Parish
25 Council.

26 (b) Two members shall be appointed by a majority vote of the New Iberia
27 City Council.

28 (c) One member shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Jeanerette
29 Board of Alderman.

1 (d) One member shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Iberia Parish
2 Airport District.

3 (2) At a minimum, a board member shall have experience in aviation,
4 business, accounting, finance, marketing, engineering, law, real estate, economic
5 development, management or another field of value to operation of the airport. A
6 full-time employee of local government shall not be eligible for appointment to the
7 board.

8 (3)(a) Members of the current Iberia Parish Airport board shall serve as the
9 district board members for the remainder of their current terms. Upon expiration of
10 their terms, successors are to be appointed as provided in this Subpart, and may serve
11 up to three additional terms of five years. Board members appointed pursuant to this
12 Subpart may reappoint themselves but shall not serve more than three consecutive
13 terms.

14 (b) Service by a board member for four or more years of a term shall be a
15 five year term for determining the number of terms.

16 (c) Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled in the same
17 manner as the original appointment and for the remainder of the unexpired term.

18 (d) Any member of the board may be removed for cause upon the
19 recommendation of a majority of the board.

20 (4)(a) The board shall elect from among its own members a chairperson, a
21 vice chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer whose duties shall be those usual to
22 such offices. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.

23 (b) The members of the board shall serve without compensation.

24 (5)(a) The board shall meet in regular session once each month and shall also
25 meet in special session as often as the chairperson convenes the board or on the
26 written request of at least three members. Three members of the board present at a
27 meeting shall constitute a quorum. A consensus of a majority of those present shall
28 be required to pass an agenda item.

1 (b) The board shall prescribe rules to govern its meetings, and the
2 chairperson shall be entitled to a vote.

3 §350.4. Powers of the board

4 A.(1) The district is a public corporation and has all powers of public
5 corporations including the right and power to incur debt and contract obligations, to
6 sue and be sued, to have a corporate seal, and to perform in its corporate capacity and
7 in its corporate name all acts necessary and proper for the purpose of acquiring,
8 constructing, maintaining, and operating airports and airport facilities, including both
9 movable and immovable property within its jurisdiction.

10 (2)(a) The district shall have all the authority as provided in R.S. 2:326 et
11 seq. and upon the "approval date" the board shall acquire the following powers:

12 (i) Accessibility to the FAA's approval of the assignment of existing grant
13 agreements to the district, in the case of an uncertified report, the date specified in
14 the agreement under which the airport is to be transferred to District.

15 (ii) Enter into contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the
16 performance of its duties and execution of its powers under this Subpart with a
17 department or agency of the United States, with a state or local governmental
18 agency, or with another person, public or private, with terms and conditions
19 acceptable to the district.

20 (iii) Exercise exclusive responsibility to study and plan any improvements,
21 expansion, or enhancements that affect the airport and commission planning,
22 engineering, economic, and other studies to provide information for making
23 decisions about the location, design, management, and other features of the airport
24 or airport facilities.

25 (iv) Exercise responsibility for developing all aspects of the airport and
26 airport facilities, including, but not limited to, all the location of terminals, hangars,
27 aids to air navigation, parking lots and structures, cargo facilities, and all other
28 facilities and services necessary to serve passengers and other customers of the
29 airport.

1 (v) Obtain street and highway access and egress with the objective of
2 minimizing, to the extent practicable, traffic congestion on access routes in the
3 vicinity of the airport.

4 (vi) Participate in demonstration programs and economic development that
5 directly benefits the airport.

6 (vii) Act as a sponsor and submit requests for, accept, and be responsible to
7 perform all of the assurance associated with accepting grants from the Federal
8 Aviation Administration (FAA), or another agency of the United States or of this
9 state, with respect to the airports under the operational jurisdiction of the district, and
10 perform the duties and responsibilities previously assumed by the local government
11 by virtue of its acceptance of grants from the FAA or another agency of the United
12 States or this state. The district shall serve as the agent of the local government for
13 the preparation, submission, execution, and administration of any state or federal
14 grants pending on the effective date of this Subpart.

15 (b) For purposes of this Subsection, "approval date" shall mean the date on
16 which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues a certificate to the district,
17 conferring operational jurisdiction over the airport under 14 CFR Part 139.

18 B. The district shall have the additional power to do the following:

19 (1) Acquire, and assume the exclusive right, responsibility, and authority to
20 occupy, operate, control, and use, the airports and the airport facilities owned by the
21 local government on that date, or under the jurisdiction of the Iberia Parish Airport
22 Authority subject only to any restrictions imposed by this Subpart.

23 (2) Exclusive rights and authority to occupy, operate, control, and use the
24 airport facilities.

25 (3) Acquire the operational jurisdiction over all real property of the airports
26 under its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, terminals, runways, taxiways,
27 aprons, hangars, aids to air navigation, vehicles or facilities, parking facilities for
28 passengers and employees, and all buildings and facilities used to operate, maintain,
29 and manage the airports, including governmental, industrial, commercial and

1 agricultural within the geographical area of the airports property, subject to any liens
2 on the real property and restrictions and limitations on the use of the real property.

3 (4) Assume the local government's right, title, and interest in, and to all of
4 the local government's responsibilities arising under, leases, concessions, and other
5 contracts for the district facilities.

6 (5) Assume all financial obligations secured by revenues and fees generated
7 from the operations of the airports, including, but not limited to, airports revenue
8 bonds, special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with
9 the airports.

10 (6) Assume ownership of all cash balances and investments relating to or
11 resulting from operations of the airports for which operational jurisdiction has been
12 transferred to the district, all money held under an ordinance, resolution, or indenture
13 related to or securing obligations of the local government that have been assumed by
14 the district, all of the accounts receivable or actions arising from operations of the
15 airport, and all benefits of contracts and agreements.

16 (7) Assume ownership of all vehicles, office equipment, furniture and
17 furnishings, and movable assets, including, but not limited to, computers, records and
18 files, software licenses required for financial management, personnel management,
19 accounting and inventory systems, and general administration.

20 §350.5. Audit

21 The district shall submit an annual financial report disclosing all receipts and
22 disbursements to the Iberia Parish Council within one hundred twenty days following
23 the end of each calender year.

24 §350.6. Local government compliance

25 The local government shall comply with all of the following:

26 (1) Refrain from any action that would impair the district's exercise of the
27 powers granted to the district under this chapter or that could cause the district to
28 violate its rate or bond covenants.

1 (2) Refrain from any action to sell, transfer, or otherwise encumber or
2 dispose of airport facilities owned by the local government without the consent of
3 the district and, if necessary, the FAA.

4 (3) Take all action reasonably necessary to cure any defects in title to airport
5 facilities transferred to the district.

6 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
10 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 613 Original

2025 Regular Session

Beullieu

Abstract: Creates the Acadiana Regional Airport and the Lemaire Memorial Airport District in Iberia Parish.

Proposed law creates the Acadiana Regional Airport and Lemaire Memorial Airport District.

Proposed law specifies that the domicile of the district is New Iberia Parish. Further, authorizes the board of commissioners to move the domicile to any place located within the boundaries of the district, or may be the seat of any political subdivision a portion of which is included within the boundaries of the district.

Proposed law specifies that the boundaries of the district are coterminous with the boundaries of New Iberia Parish, consisting of Acadiana Regional Airport and LeMaire Memorial Airport.

Proposed law requires the district maintain suitable offices in New Iberia Parish.

Proposed law sets the composition of a board at seven members and requires they be citizens of the U.S. Establishes appointments as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by a majority vote of the Iberia Parish Council.
- (2) Two members appointed by a majority vote of the New Iberia City Council.
- (3) One member appointed by a majority vote of the Jeanerette Board of Alderman.
- (4) One member appointed by a majority vote of the Iberia Parish Airport District.

Proposed law requires members have experience in aviation, business, accounting, finance, marketing, engineering, law, real estate, economic development, management or another

field of value to operation of the airport. Further, prohibits a full-time employee of local government from being eligible for appointment to the board.

Proposed law specifies that the current Iberia Parish Airport board members will serve as the district board members for the remainder of their current terms. Additionally, requires that upon expiration of terms, successors are to be appointed, and may serve up to three additional terms of five years. Further, specifies that New Iberia Parish board members appointed pursuant to proposed law and may reappoint themselves but cannot serve more than three consecutive terms.

Proposed law specifies that service by a board member for four or more years of a term must be a five year term for determining the number of terms.

Proposed law specifies that any vacancy in the membership of the board to be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Proposed law specifies that any member of the board may be removed for cause upon the recommendation of a majority of the board.

Proposed law requires the board elect from among its own members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer. Authorizes the offices of secretary and treasurer to be held by one person.

Proposed law requires the board must meet in regular session once each month and also meet in special session as often as the chairperson convenes the board or on the written request of three members. Additionally, specifies that a quorum is three members of the board present at a meeting. Further, requires that a simply majority vote to pass an agenda item.

Proposed law specifies the board members serve without compensation.

Proposed law requires the board to prescribe rules to govern its meetings, and allows the chairperson to vote.

Proposed law specifies that the district is a public corporation and has all powers of public corporations including the right and power to incur debt and contract obligations, to sue and be sued, to have a corporate seal, and to perform in its corporate capacity and in its corporate name all acts necessary and proper for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, maintaining, and operating airports and airport facilities, including both movable and immovable property within its jurisdiction.

Proposed law grants the district all authority as provided in present law and upon the "approval date" which is defined as the date on which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues a certificate to the district, conferring operational jurisdiction over the airport under present law, the board will acquire the following powers:

- (1) Accessibility to the FAA's approval of the assignment of existing grant agreements to the District, in the case of an uncertified report, the date specified in the agreement under which the airport is to be transferred to district.
- (2) Enter into contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers under proposed law, with a department or agency of the U.S., with a state or local governmental agency, or with another person, public or private, with terms and conditions acceptable to the district.
- (3) Exercise exclusive responsibility to study and plan any improvements, expansion, or enhancements that affect the airport and commission planning, engineering, economic, and other studies to provide information for making decisions about the location, design, management, and other features of the airport or airport facilities.

- (4) Exercise responsibility for developing all aspects of the airport and airport facilities, including, but not limited to, all the location of terminals, hangars, aids to air navigation, parking lots and structures, cargo facilities, and all other facilities and services necessary to serve passengers and other customers of the airport.
- (5) Obtain street and highway access and egress with the objective of minimizing, to the extent practicable, traffic congestion on access routes in the vicinity of the airport.
- (6) Participate in demonstration programs and economic development that directly benefits the district.
- (7) Act as a sponsor and submit requests for, accept, and be responsible to perform all of the assurance associated with accepting grants from the FAA, or another agency of the U.S. or of this state, with respect to the airports under the operational jurisdiction of the district, and perform the duties and responsibilities previously assumed by the local government by virtue of its acceptance of grants from the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state. Requires the district to serve as the agent of the local government for the preparation, submission, execution, and administration of any state or federal grants pending on the effective date of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the district to submit an annual financial report disclosing all receipts and disbursements to the Iberia Parish Council, within 120 days following the end of each calendar year.

Proposed law specifies the district has the additional power to do the following:

- (1) Acquire, and assume the exclusive right, responsibility, and authority to occupy, operate, control, and use, the airports and the airport facilities owned by the local government on that date, or under the jurisdiction of the Iberia Parish Airport Authority subject only to any restrictions imposed by present law.
- (2) Exclusive rights and authority to occupy, operate, control, and use the district facilities.
- (3) Acquire the operational jurisdiction over all real property of the district, including, but not limited to, terminals, runways, taxiways, aprons, hangars, aids to air navigation, vehicles or facilities, parking facilities for passengers and employees, and all buildings and facilities used to operate, maintain, and manage the district, including governmental, industrial, commercial and agricultural within the geographical area of the airports property, subject to any liens on the real property and restrictions and limitations on the use of real property.
- (4) Assume the local government's right, title, and interest in, and to all of the local government's responsibilities arising under, leases, concessions, and other contracts for the district facilities.
- (5) Assume all financial obligations secured by revenues and fees generated from the operations of the district, including, but not limited to, airports revenue bonds, special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with the district.
- (6) Assume ownership of all cash balances and investments relating to or resulting from operations of the district for which operational jurisdiction has been transferred to the district, all money held under an ordinance, resolution, or indenture related to or securing obligations of the local government that have been assumed by the district, all of the accounts receivable or actions arising from operations of the district, and all benefits of contracts and agreements.

- (7) Assume ownership of all vehicles, office equipment, furniture and furnishings, and movable assets, including, but not limited to, computers, records and files, software licenses required for financial management, personnel management, accounting and inventory systems, and general administration.

Proposed law requires local government comply with all of the following:

- (1) Refrain from any action that would impair the district's exercise of the powers granted to the district under this chapter or that could cause the district to violate its rate or bond covenants.
- (2) Refrain from any action to sell, transfer, or otherwise encumber or dispose of airport facilities owned by the local government without the consent of the district and, if necessary, the FAA.
- (3) Take all action reasonably necessary to cure any defects in title to airport facilities transferred to the district.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 2:350.1- 350.6)