

DIGEST

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SB 176 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

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Proposed law authorizes the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council (BRMC) to form a special purpose airport authority known as the "Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority".

Proposed law provides for definitions.

Proposed law provides requirements for the airport authority including adhering to open meetings laws, public records laws, and passage of a resolution by the BRMC.

Proposed law provides requirements for the airport authority's board of commissioners and articles of incorporation. Proposed law further provides for the requirements of the members of the board and the provisions necessary to be included in the articles of incorporation. Proposed law authorizes BRMC the authority to appoint a new member to fill a vacancy on the airport authority board.

Proposed law provides for meetings of the board, special meetings, and audit committees made up of board members of the airport authority.

Proposed law provides for the appointment and qualifications of a chief executive officer and a chief financial officer of the airport authority. Proposed law further provides for the duties and responsibilities of the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer.

Proposed law provides for procurement policies consistent with the Federal Aviation Administration, liability procedures, and the ability to purchase insurance policies to cover members of the board, officers, appointees, and employees of the airport authority.

Proposed law provides for legal rights and obligations of the airport authority and the airport authority's ability to accept the transfer of operational jurisdiction of other publicly owned airports, in and outside of the local government.

Proposed law provides for employees transferring to the regional airport authority, the employees' pension plans, benefits, and collective bargaining agreements pursuant to La. law. Proposed law further provides for the Airport Authority's ability to provide and establish retirement plans and the employees' ability to take advantage of city or parish retirement plans, or retirement plans established by the authority. Proposed law specifies that if the regional authority elects to participate in the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System, employee membership will be governed by that system's statutes and plan provisions. Proposed law provides that if the regional authority elects to adopt or establish its own retirement system, it must compensate the Baton Rouge city-parish retirement system for the loss of transferred employees no longer covered by that system.

Present law provides for the Baton Rouge Airport District and the board of commissioners.

Proposed law authorizes the local authority to grant or convey movable or immovable property, or interests therein, to the regional authority for carrying out its authorized purposes pursuant to agreements.

Proposed law require that the member seats held by the state senator for Senate District 14 and the state representative for House District 64 on the commission cease to exist and terminate on Dec. 31, 2027.

Proposed law provides the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority cannot be an entity unless and until certain provisions are met including the adoption of a resolution by the BRMC and the approval of the transfer of the operating certificate by the FAA.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends Paragraph (C)(1) of Section 3 of Act No. 151 of 1969 R.S., as amended by Act No. 804 of 1982 R.S., Act No. 551 of 1984 R.S., and Act No. 91 of 1995 R.S. and R.S. 11:2213(12); adds R.S. 2:701-714, R.S. 11:2213(11)(k), 2214(A)(2)(f), and 2225.4(A)(2)(c))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Adds clarifying language regarding retirement.
2. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the reengrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide for an effective date.
3. Clarify that "Metropolitan Council" means the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge and the parish of East Baton Rouge.
4. Change the authority to appoint a new member to fill a vacancy from the legislative body to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council.
5. Authorize the regional authority to exclusively operate and control the airport upon FAA approval and requires the local government to convey or lease the airport property and transfer related assets to the regional authority, pursuant to agreements between the regional authority and the local government.
6. Provide that if the regional authority elects to adopt or establish its own retirement system, it must compensate the Baton Rouge city-parish retirement system for the loss of transferred employees no longer covered by that system.
7. Specify that if the regional authority elects to participate in the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System, employee membership will be governed by the system's statutes and plan provisions.
8. Authorize the local authority to grant or convey movable or immovable property, or interests therein, to the regional authority for carrying out its authorized purposes pursuant to agreements between the regional authority and the local authority.
9. Clarify that member seats held by the state senator for Senate District 14 and the state representative for House District 64 on the commission cease to exist and terminate on December 31, 2027.