
DIGEST

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HB 651 Original

2025 Regular Session

Young

Abstract: Creates Claiborne Parish Airport District No. 31.

Proposed law creates the Claiborne Parish Airport District No. 31.

Proposed law specifies that the domicile of the district is in Claiborne 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 control and management of the district be vested in a board of commissioners composed of five members as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by the state representative of House District No. 11.
- (2) One member appointed by the state senator from Senate District No. 33.
- (3) One member appointed by the mayor of Homer, or his designee.
- (4) One member appointed by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury.

Proposed law specifies that the commissioners serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Proposed law allows commissioners to receive a per diem of \$75 for each meeting, not to exceed 24 meetings in one calendar year, as funds are appropriated by the governing authority of Claiborne Parish or as otherwise made available for such purpose.

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 the 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 locations 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 airport 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 U.S. 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 the effective date of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the district to submit an annual financial report disclosing all receipts and disbursements to the Claiborne Parish Police Jury, 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 Claiborne Parish Police Jury 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, airport revenue bonds, special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with the airport.
- (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 proposed law 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 governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

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