

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 755 (Substitute for House Bill No. 401 by Representative Zeringue)

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 2:604.3, relative to the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission; to authorize
3 the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission to appoint and commission peace
4 officers to enforce laws, rules, and regulations to secure the protection of persons,
5 properties, or interests relating to the commission within the jurisdictional
6 boundaries of the Houma-Terrebonne airport; and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 2:604.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §604.3. Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission; peace officers; appointment,
13 duties, and powers

14 A. The Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission may, in its discretion,
15 appoint and commission peace officers who shall enforce laws, rules, and regulations
16 to secure the protection of persons, properties, or interests relating to the
17 commission, and only within the commission's jurisdiction. Such jurisdiction shall
18 consist of the physical boundaries of the Houma-Terrebonne airport as defined
19 within the Code of Ordinances of the parish of Terrebonne and any immovable
20 properties owned by the commission.

21 B. Peace officers so commissioned and appointed by the commission shall
22 be employees of the commission and meet the following requirements:

23 (1) Be citizens of the state of Louisiana.

24 (2) Have attained the age of twenty-one.

1 (3) Be P.O.S.T. certified in accordance with the Peace Officers Standard and
2 Training law.

3 C. Under the direction and control of the commission, the commission's
4 peace officers shall exercise regular police powers of the state granted to law
5 enforcement officers with respect to criminal and other offenses affecting the
6 protection of persons, properties, or interests, but only as it relates to the
7 commission, the airport, or to the performance of their duties for the commission,
8 and only within the commission's jurisdiction.

9 D. Nothing in this Section shall prevent municipal, parish, or state law
10 enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in Terrebonne Parish from maintaining and
11 exercising their police powers within the commission's jurisdiction. In the event of
12 a serious incident or contested scene, final authority shall be deferred to the police
13 chief or his proxy.

14 E. Except for exigent circumstances, the commission's peace officers shall
15 report and refer to a municipal, parish, or state law enforcement agency any
16 suspected criminal activity within the commission's jurisdiction which may result in
17 felony charges. A municipal, parish, or state law enforcement agency having
18 concurrent jurisdiction with the commission, may, at its discretion, take the lead in
19 or take over any investigation originating with the commission. The commission
20 peace officers shall cooperate with such agency.

21 F. Any persons arrested by the commission's peace officers, and the return
22 of all warrants or processes served by said officers, shall be surrendered or delivered
23 to the appropriate law enforcement agency within the parish of Terrebonne.

24 G. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct,
25 management, training, and control of its peace officers, and may, from time to time,
26 amend such rules and regulations in its discretion. The commission shall ensure its
27 peace officers maintain proper and regular law enforcement training.

1 H. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed, nor is it intended, to alter the
2 assessment, collection, and administration of ad valorem tax revenues within the
3 commission's jurisdiction.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____