

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 176

BY SENATOR FOIL

AIRCRAFT/AVIATION. Provides relative to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport.
(8/1/25)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact Paragraph (C)(1) of Section 3 of Act No. 151 of the 1969 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 804 of the 1982 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 551 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 91 of the 1995 Regular Session of the Legislature, and R.S. 11:2213(12) and to enact Chapter 6 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 2:701 through 714 and R.S. 11:2213(11)(k), 2214(A)(2)(f), and 2225.4(A)(2)(c), relative to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport; to provide for the creation of the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority; to authorize the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council the ability to create the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority; to provide for definitions; to provide for the board of commissioners of the authority; to provide for the powers, duties, and functions of the board; to authorize for the issuance of bonds by the authority; to provide for retirement benefits for the employees of the authority; to provide for a sunset date of certain board members of the Greater Baton Rouge Airport District; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 6 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 2:701 through 714, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 6. BATON ROUGE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

§701. Legislative intent; short title

The legislature hereby authorizes the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council and Parish of East Baton Rouge to form a special purpose airport authority for the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, or as otherwise named. This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority Act".

§702. Definitions

A. As used in this Chapter:

(1) "Airport" means as defined in LA R.S. 2:1(9).

(2) "Airport facilities" means any of the following at an airport:

(a) Movable or immovable property or an interest in movable or immovable property used for the landing, taking off, taxiing, parking, or storing of aircraft, or for receiving or discharging passengers or cargo, an appurtenant area used for an airport building or other facility, and any appurtenant right-of-way.

(b) Movable or immovable property including an easement, used for over-flight, noise abatement, a clear zone, a side transition zone, an environmental mitigation requirement, utilities, a drainage system, a right-of-way, or any other requirement imposed as a condition of approving the acquisition, construction, expansion, or operation of other airport facilities, whether located within the boundaries of the parish of East Baton Rouge or not.

(c) Structures, buildings, and improvements, including aeronautical and nonaeronautical, commercial or noncommercial structures, concessions, roadways, beacons, markers, communication systems, and navigational aids.

(d) Any other improvements or facilities necessary, useful, or intended for use in the operation of an airport.

1 (3) "Approval date" means the date of the issuance by the Federal
2 Aviation Administration to the regional authority assuming operational
3 jurisdiction of the airport of a certificate under 14 CFR 139 with respect to the
4 airport, and the concurrence by the Federal Aviation Administration of the
5 designation of the regional authority as a sponsor of the airport, including the
6 Federal Aviation Administration's approval of the assignment of existing grant
7 agreements to the regional authority.

8 (4) "Board" means the governing body of the regional authority
9 appointed by the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council.

10 (5) "Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority" means a body politic and
11 corporate and a political subdivision of this state. The authority shall exercise
12 such powers and duties as herein specified or as necessary or convenient to
13 carry out its purposes.

14 (6) "Chief executive officer" means the chief administrative officer of the
15 regional authority.

16 (7) "Enplanement" means a domestic, territorial, or international
17 revenue passenger who boards an aircraft that departs from the airport.

18 (8) "FAA" means the Federal Aviation Administration of the United
19 States Department of Transportation, or any successor agency.

20 (9) "Fiscal year" means the annual period that is the fiscal year of the
21 Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council or another annual period established by the
22 board.

23 (10) "Local government" means the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East
24 Baton Rouge, otherwise known as the "City-Parish", that creates the regional
25 authority through the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council and shall not include
26 any governmental official who is not seated on the Baton Rouge Metropolitan
27 Council.

28 (11) "Regional authority" means the Baton Rouge Airport Authority
29 created pursuant to this Chapter and governed by a board.

30 (12) "Sponsor" means a public agency authorized by 49 USC 47101 to

47134 to submit requests for, accept, and be responsible for performing all of the assurances associated with accepting grant agreements with respect to airports from the FAA or this state, and to perform some duties and responsibilities previously assumed by the local government that owns or operates the airport before the transfer of operational jurisdiction of the airport to the regional authority created pursuant to this Chapter by virtue of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council's acceptance before the approval date of grants for the benefit of the airport from the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state.

§703. Creation of authority; jurisdiction

A. The Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority authorized pursuant to this Chapter is a public body politic and corporate for purposes of state and federal law and shall comply with all of the following:

(1) The Open Meetings Law pursuant to R.S. 42:11 et seq.

(2) The Louisiana Public Records Law pursuant to R.S. 44:1 et seq.

B. The local government that owns or operates the airport may, by resolution, declare its intention to incorporate a regional authority. In the resolution of intent, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council shall set a date for a public hearing on the adoption of a proposed resolution incorporating the regional authority. The public hearing shall be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq. After the public hearing, if the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council intends to proceed with the incorporation of the regional authority, it shall adopt, by majority vote of its members, a resolution adopting the articles of incorporation of the regional authority. The adoption of the resolution is subject to any applicable statutory or charter provisions with respect to the approval or disapproval by an officer of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council and the adoption of an ordinance over the officer's veto. The articles of incorporation for the regional authority shall take effect on being filed with the secretary of state.

C. The validity of the incorporation of a regional authority is

1 conclusively presumed unless questioned in an original action filed in the 19th
2 Judicial District Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge within sixty days
3 after the creation or incorporation of the regional authority pursuant to this
4 Chapter. The court shall hear the action in an expedited manner.

5 §704. Board of commissioners; creation; membership; terms; officers; meetings

6 A.(1) The authority created pursuant to this Chapter shall be directed
7 and governed by a board consisting of not fewer than five and not more than
8 nine members, who shall be appointed by the Baton Rouge Metropolitan
9 Council and serve five-year terms. The initial terms of the board members shall
10 be specified in the articles of incorporation and staggered in a manner that the
11 terms of not less than one member expire each year. No board member shall be
12 appointed to more than three consecutive terms in office.

13 (2) In addition to those board members appointed by the Baton Rouge
14 Metropolitan Council, the state senators from state senatorial districts fourteen
15 and fifteen and the state representatives from state representative districts
16 sixty-three and sixty-four shall serve as ex officio members of the authority with
17 all voting rights and privileges afforded to other members. They shall serve
18 terms concurrent with their term of elected office. Membership seats held by
19 the state senator for district fourteen and the state representative for district
20 sixty-four shall cease to exist and terminate from the board on December 31,
21 2027.

22 B. The articles of incorporation of the authority created pursuant to this
23 Chapter shall specify the number and qualifications of the members of the
24 board. However, not more than thirty-three percent of the members appointed
25 by the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council may be elected officials. At a
26 minimum, a board member shall be domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish and
27 have experience in aviation, business, accounting, finance, marketing,
28 engineering, law, real estate, economic development, management, or another
29 field of value to the operation of the airport. A full-time paid employee of the
30 local government shall not be eligible for appointment to the board.

1 C. Within sixty days after incorporation of a regional authority, the
2 members of the governing body of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council shall
3 appoint the members of the board. Before assuming the duties of office, a
4 member of the board shall qualify by taking and subscribing to the
5 constitutional oath of office.

6 D. A member of the board whose term has expired shall hold office until
7 the board member's successor is appointed and qualified, or until resignation
8 or removal. If a member of the board is removed or is unable to complete his
9 term of office, the governing body shall appoint a successor to complete the
10 term. A member of the board may resign by written notice to the regional
11 authority. The resignation is effective on receipt by the secretary or chairperson
12 of the regional authority or at a subsequent time as set forth in the notice of
13 resignation. The regional authority shall promptly advise the Baton Rouge
14 Metropolitan Council in writing of any vacancy. The legislative body shall
15 appoint a new member to fill the vacancy within sixty days after the Baton
16 Rouge Metropolitan Council is advised of the notice of resignation by the
17 regional authority.

18 E. The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council shall only remove a board
19 member for cause. The definition of cause shall include failure to attend at least
20 seventy-five percent of the meetings of the board each fiscal year, conviction of
21 a felony, breach of fiduciary duty to the regional authority, and other conduct
22 as specified in the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the regional authority.

23 F. Within ninety days after the regional authority is incorporated
24 pursuant to this Chapter, the board of the regional authority shall hold its first
25 meeting. At the first meeting, the board shall elect a chairperson, vice
26 chairperson, secretary, and any additional officers that the board considers
27 necessary. With the exception of the treasurer, all officers of the board shall be
28 elected annually by, and shall be members of, the board.

29 G. Except for those powers reserved or delegated to the chief executive
30 officer of the regional authority by this Chapter or by the board, the board may

1 withdraw from the chief executive officer any power that the board has
2 delegated to the chief executive officer.

3 H. The regional authority shall not compensate a member of the board
4 for service to the authority or attendance at a meeting, but may reimburse a
5 member for an actual and necessary expense incurred in the discharge of the
6 member's official duties.

7 I. The board shall act only by resolution or ordinance. A vote of the
8 majority of the board members present at a meeting of the board or a
9 committee of the board at which a quorum is present constitutes the action of
10 the board or committee unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the
11 regional authority require otherwise.

12 §705. Meetings; special meetings; audit committees

13 A. After organization, the board shall adopt a schedule of regular
14 meetings and adopt a regular meeting date, place, and time. The board shall
15 meet not less than quarterly.

16 B. A special meeting of the board may be scheduled as provided in the
17 bylaws of the regional authority, but the board chairperson shall call a special
18 meeting on request of two or more board members.

19 C. The board shall appoint an audit committee consisting of at least two
20 members of the board. The audit committee shall meet not less than annually
21 with the chief financial officer, the chief executive officer, and the independent
22 auditors of the regional authority to review reports related to the financial
23 condition, operations, performance, and management of the regional authority
24 and airport.

25 §706. Chief executive office; qualifications; requirements

26 A. (1)The board shall appoint a chief executive officer who shall have
27 professional qualifications and experience comparable with the requirements
28 of the chief executive officer position that are consistent in the industry
29 regarding the management and operation of a publicly owned and operated
30 airport that is certified by the FAA under 14 CFR 139.

1 (2) The chief executive officer shall be an ex officio member of the board,
2 who is not considered in determining the presence of a quorum, and does not
3 have a vote. The chief executive officer serves at the pleasure of the board.

4 (3) The board may enter into a contract with the chief executive officer
5 for a commercially reasonable length of time comparable with the length of time
6 for contracts of airport chief executive officers, directors, or managers with
7 similar responsibilities at other airports or airport authorities in or outside of
8 this state with a comparable number of annual enplanements. A contract
9 executed pursuant to this Subsection shall be terminable at will by the board.

10 B.(1)A chief executive officer shall appoint a chief financial officer who
11 shall serve as the treasurer of the regional authority.

12 (2) The chief financial officer shall have professional qualifications
13 commensurate with the responsibility of the jobs to be performed by chief
14 financial officers.

15 (3) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the chief financial officer
16 shall receive all money belonging to the regional authority, or arising, or
17 received in connection with the airport from any source.

18 (4) The chief financial officer shall deposit, invest, and pay money of the
19 regional authority only in accordance with applicable state law and policies,
20 procedures, ordinances, or resolutions adopted by the board. On and after the
21 approval date, the regional authority shall be considered to be the owner of all
22 money or other property previously or later received by the treasurer of the
23 Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council or deposited in the treasury of the local
24 government to the credit of the airport for which operational jurisdiction has
25 been transferred to the regional authority. The regional authority shall be
26 entitled to all interest and other earnings on the money on and after the
27 approval date. The treasurer of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council that
28 receives or has custody of money or other property that belongs to the regional
29 authority shall promptly transfer the money or other property to the custody
30 of the chief financial officer of the regional authority.

1 C. The board shall require the chief financial officer and chief executive
2 officer to post a suitable bond of not less than one hundred thousand dollars by
3 a responsible bonding company. The regional authority shall pay the premium
4 of the bond.

5 D. The board shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the chief
6 executive officer that are in addition to the duties and responsibilities imposed
7 on the chief executive officer pursuant to this Chapter. The chief executive
8 officer shall supervise, and is responsible for, all of the following:

9 (1) The day-to-day operation of the airport, including the control,
10 supervision, management, and oversight of the functions of the airport.

11 (2) The issuance of bonds and notes as approved by the board.

12 (3) The negotiation, establishment and approval of compensation and
13 other terms and conditions of employment for employees of the regional
14 authority, within the budget approved by the board. However, any collective
15 bargaining agreements for represented employees are subject to board
16 approval.

17 (4) The appointment, dismissal, discipline, demotion, promotion, and
18 classification of employees of the regional authority.

19 (5) The negotiation, supervision, and enforcement of other contracts as
20 approved by the board and entered into by the regional authority and the
21 supervision of contractors and subcontractors of the regional authority in the
22 performance of their duties.

23 E. The chief executive officer may execute and deliver, and delegate
24 signatory power for, contracts, leases, obligations, and other instruments
25 approved by the board or for which power to approve has been delegated to the
26 chief executive officer of the regional authority pursuant to this Chapter or by
27 action of the board. The chief executive officer shall have all powers incident to
28 the performance of his or her duties that are prescribed pursuant to this
29 Chapter or by the board. The board may delegate additional powers to the chief
30 executive officer not enumerated in this Chapter. If the chief executive officer

1 is temporarily absent or disabled, he may designate a qualified person as acting
2 chief executive officer to perform the duties of the office. If the chief executive
3 officer fails or is unable to designate an acting chief executive officer, the board
4 shall designate an acting chief executive officer for the period of absence or
5 disability of the chief executive officer.

6 §707. Policies; procurement; employees

7 A. The regional authority shall establish procurement policies and
8 procedures consistent with the procurement policies of the FAA and any
9 applicable state laws or rules, including any competitive bidding requirements.

10 B. The regional authority may enter into a lease purchase or installment
11 purchase contract for a period not to exceed the anticipated useful life of the
12 item purchased. The authority may enter into a cooperative purchasing
13 agreement with the state, another public entity, or an external procurement
14 activity as defined in R. S. 39:1556 for the purchase of goods, including but not
15 limited to recycled goods, and services necessary for the operation of the
16 authority.

17 C. A member of the board or an officer, appointee, or employee of the
18 regional authority shall be a public servant pursuant to R.S. 42:1102(19), and
19 is subject to any other applicable law with respect to conflicts of interest. The
20 board shall establish an ethics policy governing the conducting of airport
21 business and the conduct of airport employees. The regional authority shall
22 establish policies that are no less stringent than those provided for public
23 officers and employees by R.S. 42:1101 et seq., and coordinate efforts for the
24 regional authority to preclude the opportunity for and the occurrence of
25 transactions by the regional authority that would create a conflict of interest
26 involving members of the board or employees of the authority.

27 D. A member of the board or an officer, appointee, or employee of the
28 regional authority is not subject to personal liability when acting in good faith
29 within the scope of his or her authority and is not subject to liability for any
30 liability of the regional authority. The board may defend and indemnify a

1 member of the board or an officer, appointee, or employee of the regional
2 authority against liability arising out of the discharge of his or her official
3 duties. A regional authority may procure an insurance policy or policies to
4 cover members of the board and officers, appointees, and employees of the
5 regional authority from personal loss or accountability for liability asserted by
6 a person with regard to bonds or other obligations of the regional authority, or
7 from any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance of the
8 bonds or other obligations or by reason of any other action taken or the failure
9 to act by the regional authority. The regional authority may also purchase and
10 maintain insurance on behalf of any person against any liability asserted against
11 the person and incurred by the person in any capacity or arising out of the
12 status of the person as a member of the board or an officer or employee of the
13 regional authority, whether or not the regional authority would have the power
14 to indemnify the person against that liability under this Subsection.

15 §708. General powers of the authority

16 A. The regional authority may do any of the following:

17 (1) Adopt a corporate seal.

18 (2) Sue or be sued in a court of competent jurisdiction of this state or
19 federal court. The state court of competent jurisdiction shall be the 19th
20 Judicial District Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge. The federal court of
21 competent jurisdiction shall be the Middle District Court of Louisiana.

22 (3) Plan, promote, extend, maintain, acquire, purchase, construct, install,
23 improve, repair, enlarge, and operate all airport facilities under the operational
24 jurisdiction of or owned by the regional authority.

25 (4) Assume and perform the obligations and the covenants related to the
26 airport that are contained in an agreement or other document by the local
27 government or between the local government and the state or the FAA relative
28 to grants for the airport or airport facilities.

29 (5) Acquire, by grant, purchase, devise, or lease, the exercise of the right
30 of eminent domain, expropriation, or otherwise, and hold movable and

1 immovable property, in fee simple or any lesser interest or by easement, as the
2 regional authority considers necessary either for the construction of airport
3 facilities or for the efficient operation or extension of any airport facilities
4 acquired or constructed or to be constructed pursuant to this Chapter, and,
5 except as otherwise provided, hold in its name, lease, and dispose of all real and
6 personal property owned by or under the operational jurisdiction of the
7 regional authority. The acquisition of land by the regional authority for an
8 airport or airport facilities in furtherance of the purposes of the regional
9 authority, and the exercise of any other powers of the regional authority, are
10 public, governmental, and municipal functions, purposes and uses exercised for
11 a public purpose, and matters of public necessity.

12 (6) Enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the
13 performance of its duties and execution of its powers pursuant to this Chapter
14 with a department or agency of the United States, with a state or local
15 governmental agency, or with another person, public or private, on terms and
16 conditions acceptable to the regional authority.

17 (7) Have and exercise exclusive responsibility to study and plan any
18 improvements, expansion, or enhancements that affect the airport, and
19 commission planning, engineering, economic, and other studies to provide
20 information for making decisions about the location, design, management, and
21 other features of the airport or airport facilities.

22 (8) Exercise responsibility for developing all aspects of the airport and
23 airport facilities, including but not limited to all of the following:

24 (a) The location of terminals, hangars, aids to air navigation, parking lots
25 and structures, cargo facilities, and all other facilities and services necessary to
26 serve passengers and other customers of the airport.

27 (b) Street and highway access and egress with the objective of
28 minimizing, to the extent practicable, traffic congestion on access routes in the
29 vicinity of the airport.

30 (c) Participation in programs and economic development that directly

1 benefits the airport.

2 (9) Act as a sponsor and submit requests for, accept, and be responsible
3 to perform all of the assurances associated with accepting grants from the FAA
4 or another agency of the United States or of this state with respect to the airport
5 under the operational jurisdiction of the regional authority, and perform the
6 duties and responsibilities previously assumed by the local government by
7 virtue of its acceptance of grants from the FAA or another agency of the United
8 States or this state.

9 (10) Enter into agreements to use the facilities or services of this state, a
10 subdivision or department of this state, a parish or municipality, or the federal
11 government or an agency of the federal government as necessary or desirable
12 to accomplish the purposes of this Chapter for consideration or pursuant to a
13 cost-allocation formula in compliance with its obligations under applicable
14 federal law, regulations, and assurances associated with accepting grants from
15 the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state, including, but not
16 limited to policies of the FAA prohibiting revenue diversion or the payment of
17 fees exceeding the value of services provided by a governmental agency.

18 (11) Allow this state, a subdivision or department of this state, a parish
19 or municipality, or the federal government or an agency of the federal
20 government to use airport facilities or the services of the regional authority as
21 necessary or desirable to accomplish the purposes of this Chapter, for
22 consideration acceptable to the regional authority in compliance with its
23 obligations under applicable federal law, regulations, and assurances associated
24 with accepting grants from the FAA or another agency of the United States or
25 this state.

26 (12) Adopt and enforce in a court of competent jurisdiction of this state
27 reasonable rules, regulations, and ordinances for the orderly, safe, efficient, and
28 sanitary operation and use of airport facilities, and establish civil and criminal
29 penalties for the violation of rules, regulations, and ordinances authorized
30 pursuant to this Chapter to the same extent as the local government.

1 (13) Enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts, leases, franchises, or
2 other arrangements with any person or persons for granting the privilege of
3 using, improving, or having access to the airport, the airport facilities, or a
4 portion of the airport or the airport facilities, for commercial airline-related
5 purposes consistent with its obligations under applicable federal law,
6 regulations, and assurances associated with accepting grants from the FAA or
7 another agency of the United States or this state.

8 (14) Enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts, leases, or other
9 arrangements not provided for in Paragraph (13) of this Subsection for
10 commercially reasonable terms consistent with its obligations under applicable
11 federal law, regulations, and assurances associated with accepting grants from
12 the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state.

13 (15) Apply for and receive loans, grants, guarantees, or other financial
14 assistance in aid of airport facilities and the operation of the airport from a
15 state, federal, parish, or municipal government or agency or from another
16 source, public or private, including financial assistance for planning,
17 constructing, improving, or operating the airport, for providing security at the
18 airport, or for providing ground access to the airport.

19 (16) Appoint and vest with police powers airport law enforcement
20 officers, guards, or police officers pursuant to this Chapter. The law
21 enforcement officers, guards, or police officers of the regional authority have
22 the full police powers and authority of municipal police officers in the areas
23 over which the regional authority has operational jurisdiction, including but not
24 limited to the prevention and detection of crime, the power to investigate and
25 enforce the laws of this state, rules, regulations, and ordinances issued by the
26 regional authority, and, to the extent permitted or required by federal law and
27 regulations, requirements of federal law and regulations governing airport
28 security. The officers may issue summonses, make arrests, and initiate criminal
29 proceedings. The regional authority shall be responsible for all actions of its
30 officers committed under color of their official position and authority. The law

1 enforcement officers of the regional authority shall be recognized as municipal
2 police officers as defined in R.S. 40:1667 et seq.

3 (17) Appoint and vest with fire protection and prevention powers airport
4 firefighters, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) officers, and employees
5 pursuant to this Chapter. The firefighters, ARFF officers, and employees of the
6 regional authority have the full powers and authority in the areas over which
7 the regional authority has operational jurisdiction, including but not limited to
8 the prevention of fire, fire protection, fire inspection, and the power to
9 investigate and enforce the laws of this state, rules, regulations, and ordinances
10 issued by the regional authority, and, to the extent permitted or required by
11 federal law and regulations. The regional authority is responsible for all actions
12 of its firefighters and ARFF officers committed under color of their official
13 position and authority.

14 (18) Procure insurance or become a self-funded insurer against loss in
15 connection with the property, assets, or activities of the regional authority.

16 (19) Invest money of the regional authority, consistent with applicable
17 state law and the contractual obligations of the regional authority, at the
18 board's discretion, in instruments, obligations, securities, or property
19 determined proper by the board, and name and use depositories for its money.

20 (20) Fix, charge, and collect rates, fees, rentals, and charges in and for
21 the use and operation of the airports under the operational jurisdiction of the
22 regional authority.

23 B. Except as otherwise prohibited by this Chapter, the regional authority
24 shall have all the powers of a political subdivision pursuant to this act. The
25 powers granted to the regional authority are public and governmental
26 functions.

27 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
28 regional authority shall have the power and authority to levy a tax, including
29 but not limited to those taxes authorized by R.S. 2:329, subject to the
30 requirements necessary and provided under state law.

1 D. Unless the regional authority obtains the approval of the Baton Rouge
2 Metropolitan Council, the regional authority shall not incur any indebtedness
3 pledging, on a superior basis, any revenues from airport facilities that are
4 otherwise pledged to secure any obligation, note, bond, or other instrument of
5 indebtedness for which the full faith and credit of the Baton Rouge
6 Metropolitan Council has been pledged. The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council
7 may establish conditions under which the regional authority may incur
8 indebtedness pledging, on a parity basis, any revenues from airport facilities
9 that are otherwise pledged to secure any obligation, note, bond, or other
10 instrument of indebtedness for which the full faith and credit of the Baton
11 Rouge Metropolitan Council has been pledged.

12 E. Upon the creation or incorporation of the authority provided for in
13 this Chapter, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council shall not pledge airport
14 facilities or assets to secure any instrument of indebtedness except to secure
15 bonds issued for airport capital improvement projects after the creation or
16 incorporation of the regional authority and before the approval date.

17 F. The regional authority shall not take any action contrary to
18 obligations assumed or entered into under state law or federal rules or
19 regulations or any agreement entered into or assumed with respect to state or
20 federal grants.

21 G. The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council shall not take any action
22 contrary to obligations or covenants under applicable state or federal law,
23 regulations, and assurances associated with the state or federal government.

24 H. If the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council previously acted as a
25 sponsor and action by, or concurrence of, the local government is required to
26 complete a project related to the airport or airport facilities, the local
27 government shall not withhold, condition, or delay concurrence with any
28 regional authority action necessary to complete the project in accordance with
29 obligations under applicable federal law, regulations, and assurances associated
30 with accepting grants from the FAA or another agency of the United States or

1 this state.

2 I. The regional authority shall serve as the agent of the local government
3 for the preparation, submission, execution, and administration of any state or
4 federal grants pending on the approval date. The regional authority shall also
5 act as the custodian of all money received or to be received by the local
6 government or the regional authority for the projects for which the grants were
7 awarded.

8 §709. Implementation; requirements; approval date

9 A. All of the following shall occur on the FAA approval date:

10 (1) The regional authority may acquire, and shall assume the exclusive
11 right, responsibility, and authority to occupy, operate, control, and use, the
12 airport and the airport facilities owned by the local government on the date in
13 which the FAA issues approval, subject only to any restrictions imposed by this
14 Chapter.

15 (2) The local government shall convey title to or enter into a lease of the
16 immovable property comprising the airport with the regional authority, which
17 shall otherwise acquire and succeed to all rights, title, and interests in and to the
18 fixtures, equipment, materials, furnishings, and other personal property owned
19 and used for purposes of the airport on that date by the local government. The
20 officers of the local government shall execute the instruments of conveyance,
21 assignment, and transfer that are necessary and appropriate to comply with this
22 Section.

23 (3) The regional authority shall assume, accept, and become solely liable
24 for all of the lawful obligations, promises, covenants, commitments, and other
25 requirements in respect of the airport of the local government, whether known
26 or unknown, contingent or matured, except for any full faith and credit pledge
27 of the local government in respect of bonds issued by the local government for
28 airport purposes, and shall perform all of the duties and obligations and is
29 entitled to all of the rights of the local government in respect of the airport
30 under any ordinances, agreements, or other instruments and under law.

1 Consistent with this Chapter, this assumption includes, and any person shall
2 transfer to the regional authority the following:

3 (a) All licenses, permits, approvals, or awards related to the airport.

4 (b) All grant agreements, grant pre-applications, and the right to receive
5 the balance of any money payable under the agreements.

6 (c) The right to receive any money, including any passenger facility
7 charges, payable to the local government on the approval date and money paid
8 to the local government after the approval date.

9 (d) The benefit of contracts and agreements.

10 (e) All of the local government's duties, liabilities, responsibilities, and
11 obligations as sponsor of the airport, except for any obligation or liabilities
12 contested in good faith by the regional authority.

13 B. All lawful actions, commitments, and proceedings including but not
14 limited to revenue bond financing for which a notice of intent resolution has
15 been adopted, of the local government made, given, or undertaken before the
16 date of assumption by the regional authority pursuant to this Section are
17 ratified, confirmed, and validated on assumption by the regional authority. All
18 actions, commitments, or proceedings undertaken shall, and all actions,
19 commitments, or proceedings of the local government in respect of the airport
20 in the process of being undertaken by, but not yet a commitment or obligation
21 of, the local government in respect of the airport may, from and after the date
22 of assumption by the regional authority pursuant to this Section, be undertaken
23 and completed by the regional authority in the manner and at the times
24 provided in this Chapter or other applicable law and in any lawful agreements
25 made by the local government before the date of assumption by the regional
26 authority pursuant to this Section.

27 C. The exclusive right and authority to occupy, operate, control, and use
28 the airport facilities includes but is not limited to all of the following:

29 (1) Operational jurisdiction over all movable and immovable property
30 of the airport, including but not limited to terminals, runways, taxiways,

aprons, hangars, aids to air navigation, vehicles or facilities, parking facilities for passengers and employees, and buildings and facilities used to operate, maintain, and manage the airport, subject to any liens on the immovable property and restrictions and limitations on the use of the immovable property.

(2) The local government's right, title, and interest in, and all of the local government's responsibilities arising under, leases, concessions, and other contracts for airport facilities.

D. The acquisitions, assumptions, successions, or transfers provided for in this Section include but are not limited to all of the following:

(1) All contracts and other obligations with airlines, tenants, concessionaires, leaseholders, and others at the airport.

(2) All financial obligations secured by revenues and fees generated from the operations of the airport, including, but not limited to, airport revenue bonds, special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with the airport.

(3) All cash balances and investments relating to or resulting from operations of the airport for which operational jurisdiction has been transferred to the regional authority, all money held under an ordinance, resolution, or indenture related to or securing obligations of the local government that have been assumed by the regional authority, all of the accounts receivable in action arising from operations of the airport, and all benefits of contracts and agreements.

(4) All office equipment including but not limited to computers, records and files, software, and software licenses required for financial management, personnel management, accounting and inventory systems, and general administration.

§710. Operational jurisdiction; transfers

A. The transfer of the operational jurisdiction over the airport to the regional authority shall not in any way impair any contract with an airline, vendor, tenant, bondholder, or other party in privity with the local government.

1 B. Upon the transfer of operational jurisdiction over the airport, the
2 local government is relieved from all further costs and responsibility arising
3 from or associated with control, operation, development, and maintenance of
4 the airport, except as otherwise required under obligations retained by the local
5 government pursuant to this Chapter or as otherwise agreed by the local
6 government.

7 C. The local government shall comply with all of the following:

8 (1) Refrain from any action that would impair the regional authority's
9 exercise of the powers granted to the regional authority pursuant to this
10 Chapter or that could cause the regional authority to violate its rate or bond
11 covenants.

12 (2) Refrain from any action to sell, transfer, or otherwise encumber or
13 dispose of airport facilities owned by the local government without the consent
14 of the regional authority and, if necessary, the FAA.

15 (3) Take all action reasonably necessary to cure any defects in title to
16 airport facilities transferred to the regional authority.

17 (4) Upon incorporation of the regional authority and before the FAA
18 approval date, conduct operations of the airport in the ordinary and usual
19 course of business.

20 (5) Maintain, repair and keep clear including provide debris and snow
21 removal for any road that provides ingress and egress to the airport over which
22 responsibility for maintenance and repair is retained by the local government
23 pursuant to agreement or law.

24 D. At the request of the regional authority, the local government may
25 provide the regional authority with transitional services previously performed
26 by the local government and related to the operation of the airport until the
27 date the regional authority elects to assume the services. The regional authority
28 shall pay the cost of the services in compliance with its obligations under
29 applicable federal law, regulations, and assurances associated with accepting
30 grants from the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state

1 including but not limited to policies of the FAA that prohibit revenue diversion
2 or the payment of fees that exceed the value of services provided by a
3 governmental agency.

4 §711. Employees; retirement; pension plans

5 A. Employees at the airport may transfer to the regional authority to
6 which operational jurisdiction of the airport will be transferred as provided in
7 this Section on one or more dates agreed to by the regional authority and the
8 local government. The date or dates shall be as soon as administratively feasible,
9 but not later than one hundred eighty days after the FAA approval date. The
10 initial terms of employment, including for purposes of pension and other
11 benefits, for transferring employees shall be substantially similar to the terms
12 of employment for the employees immediately before the transfer. The regional
13 authority shall offer to enter into a collective bargaining agreement covering
14 transferring employees who on their transfer date were covered by a collective
15 bargaining agreement with the local government. The agreement offered by the
16 regional authority shall have substantially similar terms of employment as the
17 local government collective bargaining agreement and remain in effect for the
18 same period. The regional authority shall become the employer of transferring
19 employees on the date of transfer without a break in employment and shall
20 recognize the length of service of the transferring employees with the local
21 government for purposes of the regional authority's benefit plans and
22 programs. The local government shall not be an employer of any employee at
23 the airport after the transfer date. The accrued local government pension
24 benefits or credits of a transferring employee shall not be diminished because
25 of the transfer. The pension benefits and credits shall be transferred to the
26 retirement system or pension plan established by the regional authority as
27 provided in Subsections B and C of this Section.

28 B.(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, by the
29 approval date, the regional authority shall have taken all necessary steps to
30 become a participating employer in the Employees' Retirement System of the

1 City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge. In the alternative, the
2 regional authority may, by the approval date, adopt another or establish its own
3 retirement system or pension plan that initially provides benefits to each
4 transferring employee that are substantially similar to the benefits provided by
5 the local government's retirement system or pension plan before the FAA
6 approval date. The regional authority's retirement system or pension plan shall
7 credit a transferring employee for his prior employment with the local
8 government, including for purposes of eligibility, vesting, and accruals, and the
9 employee shall make any mandatory employee contribution to the regional
10 authority's retirement system or pension plan.

11 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection to
12 the contrary, the regional authority may elect to become a participating
13 employer in the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System. By the
14 approval date, the authority shall notify the system's board of trustees of the
15 authority's election to become a participating employer or to establish its own
16 retirement system or pension plan.

17 C. If the regional authority elects to establish its own retirement system
18 or pension plan, the local government shall, as soon as administratively feasible,
19 but not later than one hundred eighty days after all employee transfers under
20 Subsection A of this Section, transfer to the trustees of the regional authority
21 retirement system or pension plan both of the following:

22 (1)(a) For defined benefit plans, of which R.S. 11:143 does not apply, all
23 accrued benefits, all accrued liabilities, and a share of the assets of the local
24 government's plan sufficient to fund the transferring employees' accrued
25 benefits to the extent that the benefits have been funded by the local government
26 on or before the transfer date.

27 (b) For defined benefit plans to which R.S. 11:143 applies:

28 (i) If the regional authority's retirement system or pension plan is
29 required to make transfers to other systems in accordance with R.S. 11:143,
30 then the defined benefit plan shall transfer to the regional authority's system or

1 plan an amount calculated in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 11:143
2 upon application of the member for a transfer of service credit.

3 (ii) If the regional authority's retirement system or pension plan is not
4 required to make transfers to other systems in accordance with R.S. 11:143,
5 then the defined benefit plan shall transfer to the regional authority's system or
6 plan the amount of the employee's contributions upon application of the
7 member for that refund and transfer.

8 (2) For defined contribution plans, the amount credited to each
9 transferring employee's account in the local government's retirement system or
10 pension plan on or before the transfer date. For purposes of this Paragraph, the
11 local government shall fully vest the account of the transferring employee on the
12 day immediately preceding the transfer date and shall make contributions on
13 behalf of the transferring employee for the portion of the transfer year in which
14 the employee was employed by the local government and eligible to participate
15 in the plans regardless of any allocation requirements that otherwise might
16 prevent the transferring employee from receiving a contribution for the year of
17 the transfer.

18 D. The local government shall transfer the amounts to be transferred
19 pursuant to Subsection E of this Section in cash or in some other form
20 acceptable to the trustees. The transfer of money to the trustees pursuant to this
21 Subsection terminates the local government's obligation to the transferring
22 employees and the transferring employees' rights under the local government's
23 retirement system and pension plans.

24 E. If the local government has an obligation to provide retiree health
25 benefits or payments to transferring employees, the regional authority shall
26 assume the obligations. The regional authority shall not assume obligations in
27 excess of the amount properly allocable to the transferring employees. The local
28 government shall, as soon as administratively feasible but not later than one
29 hundred eighty days after all employee transfers pursuant to Subsection A of
30 this Section, transfer to the regional authority an amount sufficient to fund the

1 transferring employees' accrued benefits to the extent that the benefits have
2 been funded by the local government on or before the transfer date. The
3 regional authority shall transfer the amounts required to be transferred under
4 this Subsection to a qualifying entity established by the regional authority in
5 cash, or in some other form acceptable to the qualifying entity. The transfer of
6 money to a qualifying entity established by the regional authority pursuant to
7 this Subsection terminates the local government's obligations to the transferring
8 employees and the transferring employees' rights to receive the benefits from
9 the local government.

10 F. This Section shall apply only to local government employees who
11 transfer their employment to the regional authority in accordance with this
12 Section.

13 G.(1) An employee hired by the regional authority, other than a
14 transferring employee, is eligible to participate in the benefit plans established
15 by the regional authority, in accordance with and subject to the terms of the
16 plans as established by the regional authority, in its sole discretion.

17 (2) If the regional authority elects to participate in the Employees'
18 Retirement System of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge,
19 an employee's membership in the system shall be governed by the ordinances
20 and other plan provisions of the system.

21 H. As used in this Section:

22 (1) "Transfer date" means the earlier of the date of transfer or the
23 deadline for transfer of employment to the regional authority.

24 (2) "Transferring employee" means an employee at the airport who
25 timely transfers to the regional authority by the transfer date.

26 §712. Transfer of operational jurisdiction; other publically owned airports

27 (1) The regional authority may accept the transfer of operational
28 jurisdiction of other publicly owned airports, in and outside of the local
29 government. In accepting a transfer, the regional authority shall not assume
30 financial obligations other than those associated with the operation of the

1 airport being transferred and with debt issued to finance improvements at the
2 airport being transferred.

3 (2) The provisions of this Section shall in no way be construed to mean
4 that the regional authority created herein shall have the authority to intervene
5 in the administration or operation of any existing airport facility without the
6 consent of the public body owning and operating such airport or airport facility
7 and applicable federal regulations.

8 §713. Bonded indebtedness; authority

9 A. For the purpose of acquiring, purchasing, constructing, improving,
10 installing, enlarging, furnishing, equipping, reequipping, or repairing airports
11 and airport facilities for which operational jurisdiction is transferred pursuant
12 to this Chapter or is acquired by the regional authority, the regional authority
13 may issue self-liquidating bonds of the authority in accordance with and
14 exercise all of the powers conferred on public entities by and under state law.

15 B. The regional authority may borrow money and issue municipal
16 securities in accordance with and exercise all of the powers conferred on
17 municipalities by and under state law.

18 C. All bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued by the regional
19 authority pursuant to this Chapter, and the interest on them, are free and
20 exempt from all taxation in this state, except inheritance and estate taxes and
21 taxes on gains realized from the sale, payment, or other disposition of them.

22 D. Any suit to determine the validity of bonds issued by the regional
23 authority shall be brought only in accordance with the provisions of R.S.
24 13:5121 et seq.

25 E. On request of the board of the regional authority, the Baton Rouge
26 Metropolitan Council may take one or more of the following actions:

27 (1) Pledge the full faith and credit of the local government behind any
28 obligation or evidence of indebtedness of the regional authority.

29 (2) Advance money to the regional authority for working capital and
30 other purposes of the regional authority on terms and conditions agreed to by

1 the regional authority and the local government consistent with obligations
2 under applicable federal law, regulations, and assurances associated with
3 accepting grants from the FAA or another agency of the United States or this
4 state.

5 (3) Appropriate and grant money to the regional authority in
6 furtherance of its purposes.

7 (4) Grant and convey to the regional authority movable or immovable
8 property of any kind or nature, or any interest in movable or immovable
9 property, for carrying out the authorized purposes of the regional authority.

10 F. A pledge made under Subsection E of this Section shall be at the
11 discretion of the governing body and may be subject to an agreement providing
12 for terms and conditions of the pledge and for repayment of any amount paid
13 under the pledge as the regional authority and the local government determine
14 to be necessary and advisable consistent with obligations under applicable
15 federal law, regulations, and assurances associated with accepting grants from
16 the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state.

17 G. An agreement by the authority to repay an advance made pursuant
18 to this Section and any obligation incurred by the regional authority under the
19 agreement shall not be subject to R.S. 39:1461 et seq.

20 H. For the purpose of more effectively managing its debt service, the
21 regional authority may enter into an interest rate exchange or swap, hedge, or
22 similar agreement or agreements in connection with the issuance or proposed
23 issuance of obligations or other evidences of indebtedness or in connection with
24 its then outstanding obligations or other evidences of indebtedness. The
25 authority may create a reserve fund for the payment of the interest rate
26 exchange or swap, hedge, or similar agreement.

27 I. An agreement entered into pursuant to this Section shall comply with
28 all of the following requirements:

29 (1) The agreement is not a debt of the regional authority entering into the
30 agreement for any statutory debt limitation purpose.

1 (2) The agreement is payable from general funds of the regional
2 authority or, subject to any existing contracts, from any available money or
3 revenue sources, including revenues that are specified by the agreement,
4 securing the obligation or evidence of indebtedness in connection with the
5 agreement.

6 J. Notwithstanding anything in this Chapter or any other law to the
7 contrary, all ordinances, resolutions, and other proceedings of the local
8 government with respect to any outstanding bonds, notes, or evidences of
9 indebtedness or liability assumed by a regional authority pursuant to this
10 Chapter constitute a contract between the regional authority and the holders of
11 the bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness or liability and shall have their
12 provisions enforceable against the regional authority or any or all of its
13 successors or assigns, by mandamus or any other appropriate action or
14 proceeding in law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction in
15 accordance with law.

16 K. Bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness or liability that are
17 assumed by the regional authority pursuant to this Chapter are payable solely
18 from and secured solely by the sources of revenue that were pledged to those
19 bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness or liability under the ordinance,
20 resolution, or other proceedings of the local government.

21 L. This Chapter and any other law shall not relieve the regional
22 authority from any bonded or other debt or liability lawfully contracted by the
23 local government with respect to the airport and outstanding on the effective
24 date of the transfer of the operational jurisdiction over the airport to the
25 regional authority.

26 M. The regional authority shall not take any action to impair the rights
27 or remedies of the holders of the bonds or other obligations of the local
28 government that owns the airport that were lawfully issued before the transfer
29 of operational jurisdiction of the airport to the regional authority.

30 N. Effective on the FAA approval date, trustees, paying agents, and

registrars for any obligation of the local government that has been assumed by the regional authority pursuant to Subsections A through G of this Section shall perform all of their duties and obligations and provide all notices related to the obligations as if the regional authority were the issuer of the obligations. The trustees, paying agents, and registrars shall care for and consider all revenues and money pledged to secure obligations of the local government that have been assumed by the regional authority under Subsections A through G of this Section as revenues and money of the regional authority. The regional authority shall indemnify and hold harmless the trustees, paying agents, and registrars from liability incurred in compliance with this Subsection.

§714 . Implementation; taxation

The authorized purposes of the regional authority shall be for the benefit of the people of the region the airport serves and in order to meet present and future state and regional needs with respect to the provision of adequate, safe, and efficient airport facilities and services to the public and to promote the economic development and well-being of this state. By performing an essential governmental function, the regional authority is not required to pay taxes or assessments of any kind or nature whatsoever on any property required or used for airport or airport facility purposes or on any rates, fees, rentals, receipts, or income at any time received by it.

Section 2. R.S. 11:2213(12) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 11:2213(11)(k), 2214(A)(2)(f), and 2225.4(A)(2)(c) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2213. Definitions

The following words and phrases, as used in this Chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly required by context, shall have the following meanings:

* * *

(11) "Employee" shall mean any of the following classifications:

* * *

(k) Employee shall also mean any person employed by the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority who would be a system member if employed by a

municipality.

(12) "Employer" shall mean any municipality in the state of Louisiana which employs a full-time police officer, empowered to make arrests, or which has an elected chief of police whose salary is at least one thousand dollars per month, the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority, and the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System.

* * *

§2214. Membership

A. The membership of the retirement system shall be composed as follows:

* * *

(2) * * *

(f) The mandatory membership provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to employees of the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority if the authority elects to establish its own retirement system or pension plan as provided in the legislation authorizing the creation of the authority.

* * *

§2225.4. Unfunded accrued liability; payment by employer

(A) * * *

(2) * * *

(c) If, on the June thirtieth immediately following the transfer of employees from the city to the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority, the city is deemed to have partially dissolved its police department, the system shall determine whether the partial dissolution would have occurred without the transfer of employees. If no dissolution would have occurred without the transfer and the employees transferred to the authority remain members of the system, the city shall not be required to make the payments otherwise required by this Section.

* * *

Section 3. Paragraph (C)(1) of Section 3 of Act No. 151 of the 1969 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 804 of the 1982 Regular Session of the

Legislature, Act No. 551 of the 1984 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 91 of the 1995 Regular Session of the Legislature, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 3.

* * *

C.(1)(a) Subject to the provisions of Section 5 hereof, there is hereby further created and established a board of commissioners (hereinafter called the "commission") composed of thirteen members. Nine members shall be from East Baton Rouge Parish, appointed by the authority, and shall serve terms designated by the authority. Such appointees shall be qualified electors in and own property assessed in East Baton Rouge Parish, and may be members of the city council of the city of Baton Rouge or the parish council of the parish of East Baton Rouge.

(b) The state senators from state senatorial districts fourteen and fifteen, or their designees, the state representatives from state representative districts sixty-three, and sixty-four, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the commission with all voting rights and privileges afforded to other members of the commission. They shall serve terms concurrent with their term of elected office. Appointment of a designee shall be at the discretion of the legislator and shall be in writing transmitted to the commission. The appointing legislator may be represented at a meeting of the commission only by his duly appointed designee or himself. A legislator may only have one designee at a time. A designee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing legislator and may be terminated at any time. No subsequent appointment of a designee shall be permitted unless the previous appointed designee has resigned or otherwise been terminated, and such resignation or termination shall be transmitted in writing to the commission. **Membership seats held by state legislators shall cease to exist and terminate December 31, 2027.**

* * *

Section 4. The provisions and implementation of Section 1 and 2 of this Act shall be subject to the exercise of the authority provided for in this Act by the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council and the approval of the transfer of the operating certificate pursuant

1 to 14 CFR 139 by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 176 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Foil

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 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 FAA, 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 Louisiana 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.

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

Proposed law provides legislative members of certain legislative districts shall be removed from the commission by December 31, 2027.

Proposed law provides the Baton Rouge Regional Airport Authority shall not 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.