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DIGEST

SB 514 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Present law provides for definitions. Proposed law retains present law and updates definitions for "department", "director" and "fixed base operator".

Present law provides for the secretary and employees of the department designated by him to supervise and direct all aeronautic activities and facilities. Proposed law changes the duties of aeronautics from the secretary of DOTD to the DOTD office of multimodal commerce commissioner.

Present law provides for the secretary of DOTD to create the La. Advanced Aviation and Drone Advisory Committee. Proposed law adds the commissioner of multimodal as a creator of the advisory committee. Proposed law further adds a member from the governor's office of homeland security and emergency preparedness as a member of the committee.

Proposed law adds the functions of the office of multimodal commerce, aeronautics division.

Proposed law provides the legislature direct secretary and commissioner to establish an advanced aeronautics director and functions to administer and progress advanced air mobility and associated functions. Proposed law provides for the commissioner of the office of multimodal commerce, or his designee, to serve as the department liaison with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Proposed law provides the department may establish and operate funding and development programs to support the development, adoption, economic integration, and promotion of advanced aviation technologies in the state and develop programs in alignment with the state's strategic economic plans.

Proposed law provides funding for programs may be derived from legislative appropriations, federal grants, public-private partnerships, or other available sources.

Present law provides for duties of the department relative to aeronautics under the direction of the secretary of DOTD. Proposed law removes duties from the secretary to the commissioner of the office of multimodal commerce.

Present law provides for activities pertaining to aircraft registration, identification, equipment, and enforcement delegated to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee. Proposed law moves the provisions relative to aircraft registration, identification, equipment, and enforcement from the secretary of DPS to the DOTD, office of multimodal commerce commissioner.

Present law provides the secretary of DOTD may administer oaths when necessary and sign any license or document relevant to the promotion or regulation of aviation, whether state or federal. Proposed law changes this responsibility from the secretary of DOTD to the DOTD, office of multimodal commerce commissioner.

Present law provides for powers and duties of the department and promulgation of rules and regulations pertaining to aeronautics. Proposed law retains present law except for air instruction and air marketing and all other nonfederal air navigation facilities.

Present law provides for the department to prescribe reasonable rules and regulations as it deems necessary and advisable regarding curriculum, equipment, personnel, and operation and management of all air instruction. Proposed law removes this provision.

Present law provides for protecting the health and safety of students receiving or to receive instruction of student aviators. Proposed law removes this provision.

Present law provides for the promotion of aeronautics governing the establishment, location, maintenance, and operation of all air markings, air beacons, and other air-navigation facilities. Proposed law retains present law and removes the provisions governing the establishment, location, maintenance and operation of air markings.

Present law provides the department of public works may plan, establish, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, protect, promote and police airports and air navigation facilities within the state. Proposed law makes technical updates from the department of public works to the department and includes that the department may construct, install, equip, maintain, and operate at such airports buildings and other facilities for the servicing of aircraft, education, workforce development, economic growth, and public-private initiatives to leverage public airport assets and infrastructure to attract, develop, and scale new and innovative entrants for transportation, logistics, and defense to ensure alignment with market demand and collaboration of resources across the state.

Present law provides for the secretary of the DOTD to either transfer the Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport in Patterson, Louisiana to the St. Mary Parish governing authority or to take whatever steps are necessary to close the Harry P. Williams Memorial Airport and to dispose of any interest the state may have in the airport. Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law makes technical changes.

Present law provides leases with a term of five years or more shall contain a provision for periodic adjustments. Proposed law changes from periodic adjustments to annual periodic adjustments.

Present law provides for the distribution of sales tax revenue when an airport is located in more than one political subdivision and only applied when the majority of the acreage of such airport was located within the parish of Jefferson. Proposed law provides sales and use tax revenues generated at the airport only be used in accordance with the provision of FAA policy and procedures.

Proposed law adds provisions for "airport sponsors". Proposed law further makes technical corrections and updates authority and duties from the department of public works to DOTD. Proposed law makes technical corrections and updates terminology including from "airport" to "aeronautical" and the Department of Public Works to the DOTD.

Proposed law provides for a change from DOTD "office of aviation" to "aeronautics division".

Proposed law provides for all monies received by the aeronautics division be deposited in the Transportation Trust Fund of the state treasury and, unless otherwise prescribed by the agency from which such monies were received.

Proposed law updates definitions in the Airport Construction and Development program. Proposed law further changes the methodology for airport project evaluation for applications for state funding, the requirements necessary for legislative and public hearings of the airport development program, and rules and regulations for the implementation of proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 2:1(15), (16), and (17), 2.1(B)(1), 5, 6(B)(1), 7, 7.1, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 81 through 87, 131(A), 135.1(F), (G), (H), (J), and (L)(1), 135.2, 135.3(A) and (B), 135.4(B), 136, 331(A), 381 through 384, 385(A) and (B), 386 (A) and (B), and 386(C)(intro para), 390, 601(5) and (6), 607(B), 609(2), 801 through 809, 811 through 814, 901, 902, 903(A); adds R.S. 2:2.1(B)(2)(p), (G), (H), and (I); repeals R.S. 2:135.1(N)(3), and 2:1001 through 1004)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds and updates terminology.
2. Changes and moves duties from the secretary of DOTD to the commissioner of multimodal commerce.
3. Removes duties from DOTD to the office of multimodal commerce.
4. Makes technical changes.
5. Changes the "Airport Priority Program" to the "Program of Airport Development" and changes requirements, regulations, procedures, and reporting requirements.
6. Repeals communication facilities.