

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 613

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

AIRCRAFT/AIRPORTS: Creates the Iberia Parish Airport Authority

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 2 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
3 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 2:350.1 through 350.6, relative to the creation of the  
4 Acadiana Regional Airport and the Lemaire Memorial Airport District; to provide  
5 for powers, duties, functions and governance of the district; to provide for the  
6 composition and tenure of the board of commissioners, officers, domicile, and  
7 authority; to provide specific authority to the board upon an approval date by the  
8 Federal Aviation Administration; to provide for local government compliance; to  
9 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

10 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
11 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
12 Louisiana.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 2 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised  
15 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 2:350.1 through 350.6, is hereby enacted to read as  
16 follows:

1                    SUBPART D. PARISH AIRPORT DISTRICTS

2            §350.1. Acadiana Regional Airport and the Lemaire Memorial Airport District;

3                    Creation

4                    There is hereby created the "Acadiana Regional Airport and Lemaire  
5                    Memorial Airport District" hereinafter referred to as the "district" subject to approval  
6                    by a majority vote of the Iberia Parish Council and approval by the Federal Aviation  
7                    Administration. The district shall come into existence upon such approvals. The  
8                    district shall be a political subdivision of the state within the meaning of Article VI,  
9                    Sections 30 through 33 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and those provisions of the  
10                   Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, applicable to airport districts and the levy of  
11                   taxes, the incurring of debt, and the issuing of bonds by those districts provided,  
12                   however, that any proposal to levy taxes shall require the prior approval of the Iberia  
13                   Parish Council.

14           §350.2. Domicile

15                   A. The domicile of the district shall be Iberia Parish. The domicile may be  
16                   changed to any place located within the boundaries of the district or may be the seat  
17                   of any political subdivision, a portion of which is included within the boundaries of  
18                   the district, provided the board approves the change in domicile.

19                   B. The boundaries of the district shall be coterminous with the boundaries  
20                   of Iberia Parish, consisting of Acadiana Regional Airport and LeMaire Memorial  
21                   Airport as per plats reflecting the aeronautical, commercial, industrial and  
22                   agricultural areas of the former area known as the "Naval Station" and "Police Jury  
23                   Airport" in Iberia Parish and the LeMaire Memorial Airport in Jeanerette.

24                   C. The district shall maintain suitable offices in Iberia Parish.

25           §350.3. Board of commissioners; appointments; terms; vacancies; qualifications

26                   A.(1) The district shall be governed by a board of commissioners, referred  
27                   to in this Subpart as the "board".

28                   (2) The board shall consist of seven members all of whom shall be citizens  
29                   of the United States and residents of Iberia Parish. The Iberia Parish Council shall

1        have the authority to appoint all members of the board and may, by majority vote,  
2        remove and replace any member. Two members shall be domiciled in the city of  
3        New Iberia and one member shall be domiciled in the city of Jeanerette.

4                (3) At a minimum, a board member shall have experience in aviation,  
5        business, accounting, finance, marketing, engineering, law, real estate, economic  
6        development, management or another field of value to operation of the airport. A  
7        full-time employee of local government shall not be eligible for appointment to the  
8        board.

9                (4)(a) Members of the current Iberia Parish Airport board shall serve as the  
10       district board members for the remainder of their current terms. Upon expiration of  
11       their terms, successors are to be appointed as provided in this Subpart, and may serve  
12       up to three additional terms of five years.

13               (b) Service by a board member for four or more years of a term shall be a  
14       five year term for determining the number of terms.

15               (c) Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled by a majority  
16       vote of Iberia Parish Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

17               (d) Any member of the board may be removed for cause upon the  
18       recommendation of a majority of the board.

19               (5)(a) The board shall elect from among its own members a chairperson, a  
20       vice chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer whose duties shall be those usual to  
21       such offices. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.

22               (b) The members of the board shall serve without compensation.

23               (6)(a) The board shall meet in regular session once each month and shall also  
24       meet in special session as often as the chairperson convenes the board or on the  
25       written request of at least three members. Four members of the district board present  
26       at a meeting shall constitute a quorum. A consensus of a majority of those present  
27       shall be required to pass an agenda item.

28               (b) The board shall prescribe rules to govern its meetings, and the  
29       chairperson shall be entitled to a vote.

1        §350.4. Powers of the board

2                A.(1) The district is a public corporation and has all powers of public  
3        corporations including the right and power to incur debt and contract obligations, to  
4        sue and be sued, to have a corporate seal, and to perform in its corporate capacity and  
5        in its corporate name all acts necessary and proper for the purpose of acquiring,  
6        constructing, maintaining, and operating airports and airport facilities, including both  
7        movable and immovable property within its jurisdiction.

8                (2)(a) The district shall have all the authority as provided in R.S. 2:326 et  
9        seq., and upon the "approval date" the board shall acquire the following powers:

10               (i) Accessibility to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approval  
11        of the assignment of existing grant agreements to the district, in the case of an  
12        uncertified report, the date specified in the agreement under which the airport is to  
13        be transferred to the district.

14               (ii) Enter into contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the  
15        performance of its duties and execution of its powers under this Subpart with a  
16        department or agency of the United States, with a state or local governmental  
17        agency, or with another person, public or private, with terms and conditions  
18        acceptable to the district.

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

24               (iv) Exercise responsibility for developing all aspects of the airport and  
25        airport facilities, including but not limited to all the location of terminals, hangars,  
26        aids to air navigation, parking lots and structures, cargo facilities, and all other  
27        facilities and services necessary to serve passengers and other customers of the  
28        airport.

1           (v) Obtain street and highway access and egress with the objective of  
2           minimizing, to the extent practicable, traffic congestion on access routes in the  
3           vicinity of the airport.

4           (vi) Participate in demonstration programs and economic development that  
5           directly benefits the airport.

6           (vii) Act as a sponsor and submit requests for, accept, and be responsible to  
7           perform all of the assurance associated with accepting grants from the FAA, or  
8           another agency of the United States or of this state, with respect to the airports under  
9           the operational jurisdiction of the district, and perform the duties and responsibilities  
10          previously assumed by the local government by virtue of its acceptance of grants  
11          from the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state. The district shall  
12          serve as the agent of the local government for the preparation, submission, execution,  
13          and administration of any state or federal grants pending on the effective date of this  
14          Subpart.

15          (b) For purposes of this Subsection, "approval date" shall mean the date on  
16          which the FAA issues a certificate to the district, conferring operational jurisdiction  
17          over the airport under 14 CFR Part 139.

18          B. The district shall have the additional power to do the following:

19          (1) Acquire, and assume the exclusive right, responsibility, and authority to  
20          occupy, operate, control, and use, the airports and the airport facilities owned by the  
21          local government on that date, or under the jurisdiction of the Iberia Parish Airport  
22          Authority subject only to any restrictions imposed by this Subpart.

23          (2) Exclusive rights and authority to occupy, operate, control, and use the  
24          airport facilities.

25          (3) Acquire the operational jurisdiction over all real property of the airports  
26          under its jurisdiction, including but not limited to terminals, runways, taxiways,  
27          aprons, hangars, aids to air navigation, vehicles or facilities, parking facilities for  
28          passengers and employees, and all buildings and facilities used to operate, maintain,  
29          and manage the airports, including governmental, industrial, commercial, and

1 agricultural properties within the geographical boundaries of the airports, subject to  
2 any liens on the real property and restrictions and limitations on the use of the real  
3 property.

4 (4) Assume the local government's right, title, and interest in, and to all of  
5 the local government's responsibilities arising under leases, concessions, and other  
6 contracts for the airport facilities.

7 (5) Assume all financial obligations secured by revenues and fees generated  
8 from the operations of the airports, including but not limited to airports revenue  
9 bonds, special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with  
10 the airports.

11 (6) Assume ownership of all cash balances and investments relating to or  
12 resulting from operations of the airports for which operational jurisdiction has been  
13 transferred to the district, all money held under an ordinance, resolution, or indenture  
14 related to or securing obligations of the local government that have been assumed by  
15 the district, all of the accounts receivable or actions arising from operations of the  
16 airport, and all benefits of contracts and agreements.

17 (7) Assume ownership of all vehicles, office equipment, furniture and  
18 furnishings, and movable assets, including but not limited to computers, records and  
19 files, software licenses required for financial management, personnel management,  
20 accounting and inventory systems, and general administration.

21 §350.5. Audit

22 The district shall submit an annual financial report disclosing all receipts and  
23 disbursements to the Iberia Parish Council within one hundred twenty days following  
24 the end of each calender year.

25 §350.6. Local government compliance

26 The local government shall comply with the following requirements:

27 (1) Refrain from any action that would impair the district's exercise of the  
28 powers granted to the district under this chapter or that could cause the district to  
29 violate its rate or bond covenants.

1                   (2) Refrain from any action to sell, transfer, or otherwise encumber or  
2                   dispose of airport facilities owned by the local government without the consent of  
3                   the district and, if necessary, the FAA.

4                   (3) Take all action reasonably necessary to cure any defects in title to airport  
5                   facilities transferred to the district.

6                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
7                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
8                   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
9                   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
10                  effective on the day following such approval.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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HB 613 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Beaulieu

**Abstract:** Creates the Acadiana Regional Airport and the Lemaire Memorial Airport District in Iberia Parish.

Proposed law creates the Acadiana Regional Airport and Lemaire Memorial Airport District subject to approval by a majority vote of the Iberia Parish Council and approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Specifies, that upon such approvals the district will come into existence.

Proposed law specifies that the domicile of the district is Iberia Parish. Further, specifies that the domicile may be changed to any place within the boundaries of the district, or may be at the seat of any political subdivision, a portion of which is included within the boundaries of the district, provided the board approves the change in domicile.

Proposed law specifies that the boundaries of the district are coterminous with the boundaries of Iberia Parish, consisting of Acadiana Regional Airport and LeMaire Memorial Airport.

Proposed law requires the district maintain suitable offices in Iberia Parish.

Proposed law sets the composition of a board at seven members and requires they be citizens of the U.S. and residents of Iberia Parish. Additionally, requires the Iberia Parish Council have authority to appoint all members of the board and may, by majority vote, remove and replace any member. Further, requires two members be domiciled in the city of New Iberia and one member be domiciled in the city of Jeanerette.

Proposed law requires members have experience in aviation, business, accounting, finance, marketing, engineering, law, real estate, economic development, management or another field of value to operation of the airport. Further, prohibits a full-time employee of local government from being eligible for appointment to the board.

Proposed law specifies that the current Iberia Parish Airport board members will serve as the district board members for the remainder of their current terms. Additionally, requires that upon expiration of terms, successors are to be appointed, and may serve up to three additional terms of five years.

Proposed law specifies that service by a board member for four or more years of a term must be a five year term for determining the number of terms.

Proposed law specifies that any vacancy in the membership of the board to be filled by a majority vote of Iberia Parish Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Proposed law specifies that any member of the board may be removed for cause upon the recommendation of a majority of the board.

Proposed law requires the board elect from among its own members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer. Authorizes the offices of secretary and treasurer to be held by one person.

Proposed law requires the board meet in regular session once each month and also meet in special session as often as the chairperson convenes the board or on the written request of three members. Additionally, specifies that a quorum is four members of the district board present at a meeting. Further, requires that a simply majority vote to pass an agenda item.

Proposed law specifies the board members serve without compensation.

Proposed law requires the board to prescribe rules to govern its meetings, and allows the chairperson to vote.

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 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 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 location 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 airports 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 on the effective date of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the district to submit an annual financial report disclosing all receipts and disbursements to the Iberia Parish Council, 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 Iberia Parish Airport Authority 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 airport facilities.
- (5) Assume all financial obligations secured by revenues and fees generated from the operations of the district, including but not limited to airports revenue bonds, special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with the district.
- (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 the following requirements:

- (1) Refrain from any action that would impair the district's exercise of the powers granted to the district under this chapter 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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make technical changes.
2. Specify that upon the approvals of the Iberia Parish Council and the Federal Aviation Administration, the Acadiana Regional Airport and Lemaire Memorial Airport District will be established.
3. Clarify that the domicile of the district may be changed to any location within the district boundaries or to the seat of any political subdivision partially located within the district, subject to approval of the board.
4. Authorize the Iberia Parish Council authority to appoint all members of the board and to remove and replace any member by majority vote.
5. Require two members to be domiciled in the city of New Iberia and one in the city of Jeanerette.
6. Change the quorum requirement for the board from three members to four members.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require that any proposals to levy taxes receive approval from the Iberia Parish Council.
2. Remove the provision allowing board members appointed under proposed law to reappoint themselves for up to three consecutive terms.
3. Require that any vacancy in the membership of the board be filled by a majority vote of Iberia Parish Council for the remainder of the unexpired term.
4. Make technical changes.