

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 651

BY REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG

AN ACT

To enact Subpart D of Part IV of Chapter 2 of Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 2:350.1 through 350.6, relative to the creation of the Claiborne Parish Airport District No. 31; to create the Claiborne Parish Airport District No. 31; to provide for powers and duties of the district; to provide for the governance of the board of commissioners; to provide specific authority to the board upon an approval date by the Federal Aviation Administration; to provide for local government compliance; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

SUBPART D. PARISH AIRPORT DISTRICTS

§350.1. Claiborne Parish Airport District No. 31

There is hereby created the "Claiborne Parish Airport District No. 31",
hereinafter referred to in this Subpart as the "district". The district shall be a political
subdivision of the state within the meaning of Article VI, Section 30 through 33 of
the Constitution of Louisiana and those provisions of the Louisiana Revised Statutes

1 of 1950 applicable to airport districts and the levy of taxes, the incurring of debt, and
2 the issuing of bonds by those districts.

3 §350.2. Domicile

4 The domicile of the district shall be in Claiborne Parish. The domicile,
5 provided there is appropriate action of the board of commissioners, may be at any
6 place located within the boundaries of the district, or may be the seat of any political
7 subdivision a portion of which is included within the boundaries of the district.

8 §350.3. Board of commissioners

9 A. The district shall be governed by a board of commissioners, referred to
10 in this Subpart as the "board".

11 B.(1) The board shall be composed of five members, all of whom shall
12 control and manage the affairs of the district. The members of the board shall be
13 appointed as follows:

14 (a) Two members shall be appointed by the state representative from House
15 District No. 11.

16 (b) One member shall be appointed by the state senator from Senate District
17 No. 33.

18 (c) One member shall be appointed by the mayor of Homer, or his designee.

19 (d) One member shall be appointed by the Claiborne Parish Police Jury.

20 (2) The commissioners shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

21 (3) Commissioners may receive per diem of seventy-five dollars for each
22 meeting attended, not to exceed twenty-four meetings in one calendar year, as funds
23 are appropriated by the governing authority of Claiborne Parish or as otherwise made
24 available for such purpose.

25 §350.4. Powers of the board

26 A.(1) The district is a public corporation and has all powers of public
27 corporations including the right and power to incur debt and contract obligations, to
28 sue and be sued, to have a corporate seal, and to perform in its corporate capacity and
29 in its corporate name all acts necessary and proper for the purpose of acquiring,

1 constructing, maintaining, and operating airport and airport facilities, including both
2 movable and immovable property within its jurisdiction.

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

5 (i) Accessibility to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approval
6 of the assignment of existing grant agreements to the district, or, in the case of an
7 uncertified report, the date specified in the agreement under which the airport is to
8 be transferred to the district.

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

14 (iii) Exercise exclusive responsibility to study and plan any improvements,
15 expansion, or enhancements that affect the airport and commission planning,
16 engineering, economic, and other studies to provide information for making
17 decisions about the location, design, management, and other features of the airport
18 or airport facilities.

19 (iv) Exercise responsibility for developing all aspects of the airport and
20 airport facilities, including but not limited to all the locations of terminals, hangars,
21 aids to air navigation, parking lots and structures, cargo facilities, and all other
22 facilities and services necessary to serve passengers and other customers of the
23 airport.

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

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

29 (vii) Act as a sponsor and submit requests for, accept, and be responsible to
30 perform all of the assurance associated with accepting grants from the FAA, or

1 another agency of the United States or of this state, with respect to the airport under
2 the operational jurisdiction of the district, and perform the duties and responsibilities
3 previously assumed by the local government by virtue of its acceptance of grants
4 from the FAA or another agency of the United States or this state. The district shall
5 serve as the agent of the local government for the preparation, submission, execution,
6 and administration of any state or federal grants pending the effective date of this
7 Subpart.

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

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

12 (1) Acquire, and assume the exclusive right, responsibility, and authority to
13 occupy, operate, control, and use the airport and the airport facilities owned by the
14 local government on that date, or under the jurisdiction of the Claiborne Parish
15 Airport Authority, subject only to any restrictions imposed by this Subpart.

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

18 (3) Acquire the operational jurisdiction over all real property of the airport
19 under its jurisdiction, including but not limited to terminals, runways, taxiways,
20 aprons, hangars, aids to air navigation, vehicles or facilities, parking facilities for
21 passengers and employees, and all buildings and facilities used to operate, maintain,
22 and manage the airport, including governmental, industrial, commercial, and
23 agricultural within the geographical area of the airports property, subject to any liens
24 on the real property and restrictions and limitations on the use of the real property.

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

28 (5) Assume all financial obligations secured by revenues and fees generated
29 from the operations of the airport, including but not limited to airport revenue bonds,

1 special facilities revenue bonds, and all bonded indebtedness associated with the
2 airport.

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

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

13 §350.5. Audit

14 The district shall submit an annual financial report disclosing all receipts and
15 disbursements to the Claiborne Parish Police Jury within one hundred twenty days
16 following the end of each calender year.

17 §350.6. Local government compliance

18 The local government shall comply with all of the following:

19 (1) Refrain from any action that would impair the district's exercise of the
20 powers granted to the district under this Subpart or that could cause the district to
21 violate its rate or bond covenants.

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

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

27 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
28 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
29 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____