

ACT No. 211

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 613

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU

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 DISTRICTS2 §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
30 have the authority to appoint all members of the board and may, by majority vote,

1 remove and replace any member. Two members shall be domiciled in the city of
2 New Iberia and one member shall be domiciled in the city of Jeanerette.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (b) The board shall prescribe rules to govern its meetings, and the
28 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
30 agricultural properties within the geographical boundaries of the airports, subject to

1 ~~any liens on the real property and restrictions and limitations on the use of the real~~
2 ~~property.~~

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

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

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

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

20 §350.5. Audit

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

24 §350.6. Local government compliance

25 The local government shall comply with the following requirements:

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____