

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 472

BY SENATOR BARROW

LOCAL AGENCIES. Provides relative to certain airport commissions. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 2:614, relative to airport commissions in certain parishes, to provide relative to powers and functions of the commissions; to provide relative to economic growth and development; to provide relative to terms, conditions, and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 2:614 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§614. Airport Commissions in Certain Parishes; additional economic development functions**

**A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in any parish with a population of not less than four hundred thousand persons and no more than five hundred thousand persons based on the latest federal decennial census, in addition to any other powers and functions, the airport commission may perform the functions of an economic and industrial development entity.**

**Such functions may include but shall not be limited to the following:**

**(1) Public relations, advertising, marketing, and providing and disseminating information.**

1                   (2) Government relations, ombudsman, and government liaison.

2                   (3) Financial and financing assistance.

3                   (4) Tax abatement.

4                   (5) Planning and coordination for economic development and resource  
5 utilization, including such functions as industrial and economic research and  
6 industrial programming and solicitation.

7                   (6) Industrial training, technical assistance, and technology transfer.

8                   (7) The use of public and other legal powers to facilitate development.

9                   (8) Promoting transfer mechanisms to take ideas from their point of  
10 origin and development to commercially successful utilization by local  
11 enterprises.

12                   (9) Fostering entrepreneurial activity for the airport located in the  
13 parish.

14                   (10) Promoting the development of new products, processes, or services  
15 or new uses for existing products, processes, or services manufactured or  
16 marketed for the airport located in the parish.

17                   (11) Supporting market research aimed at identifying new markets for  
18 local or regional products and processes, including international markets;  
19 determining the characteristics, needs and preferences of those markets; and  
20 developing new marketing techniques to exploit those markets.

21                   (12) Fostering and supporting economic and industrial development and  
22 education in cooperation with private business enterprises, financial  
23 institutions, educational institutions, nonprofit institutions and organizations,  
24 state government and political subdivisions of the state, the federal government,  
25 and other organizations or persons concerned with research, development,  
26 education, commercial application, and economic or industrial development in  
27 ways which increase the economic base of the airport located in the parish.

28                   B. For the purposes enumerated in Subsection A of this Section, the  
29 commission may engage in whatever activities and projects it deems most

1 appropriate to encourage and assist economic growth and development in  
 2 accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter, including but  
 3 not limited to the following:

4 (1) To plan, acquire, construct, improve, maintain, equip, operate,  
 5 regulate, and protect economic development facilities, including the acquisition,  
 6 maintenance and operation of buildings and other facilities, and the purchase  
 7 of and sale of supplies, goods, and commodities as an incident to the operation  
 8 of its properties. For such purposes an authority may, by purchase, gift, devise,  
 9 or lease, acquire property, movable or immovable, or any interest therein,  
 10 including easements in land outside the boundaries of such facility site.

11 (2) To establish or acquire and maintain economic development facilities  
 12 in, over, and upon any public waters of this state, any submerged lands under  
 13 such public water; and to construct and maintain buildings, landing floats,  
 14 causeways, roadways, and bridges for approaches to or connecting with any  
 15 such facilities, and landing floats and breakwaters for the protection thereof.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

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DIGEST

SB 472 Original

2024 Regular Session

Barrow

Present law provides for the general powers of airport authorities and authorizes airport authorities to make contracts for a fixed term of no longer than 10 years and to dedicate excess future revenues above statutory, necessary, and usual charges subject to approval of the State Bond Commission.

Proposed law authorizes airport commissions in any parish with a population of not less than 400,000 persons and no more than 500,000 persons based on the latest federal decennial census, to perform the functions of an economic and industrial development entity which functions may include but shall not be limited to the following:

- (1) Public relations, advertising, marketing, and providing and disseminating information.
- (2) Government relations, ombudsman, and government liaison.
- (3) Financial and financing assistance.
- (4) Tax abatement.
- (5) Planning and coordination for economic development and resource utilization, including such functions as industrial and economic research and industrial

programming and solicitation.

- (6) Industrial training, technical assistance, and technology transfer.
- (7) The use of public and other legal powers to facilitate development.
- (8) Promoting transfer mechanisms to take ideas from their point of origin and development to commercially successful utilization by local enterprises.
- (9) Fostering entrepreneurial activity for the airport located in the parish.
- (10) Promoting the development of new products, processes, or services or new uses for existing products, processes, or services manufactured or marketed for the airport located in the parish.
- (11) Supporting market research aimed at identifying new markets for local or regional products and processes, including international markets; determining the characteristics, needs and preferences of those markets; and developing new marketing techniques to exploit those markets.
- (12) Fostering and supporting economic and industrial development and education in cooperation with private business enterprises, financial institutions, educational institutions, nonprofit institutions and organizations, state government and political subdivisions of the state, the federal government, and other organizations or persons concerned with research, development, education, commercial application, and economic or industrial development in ways which increase the economic base of the airport located in the parish.

Proposed law provides that for such enumerated purposes, the airport located in the parish may engage in whatever activities and projects it deems most appropriate to encourage and assist economic growth and development, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To plan, acquire, construct, improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate, and protect economic development facilities, including the acquisition, maintenance and operation of buildings and other facilities, and the purchase of and sale of supplies, goods, and commodities as an incident to the operation of its properties. For such purposes an authority may, by purchase, gift, or lease, acquire property, real or personal, or any interest therein, including easements in land outside the boundaries of such facility site.
- (2) To establish or acquire and maintain economic development facilities in, over, and upon any public waters of this state, any submerged lands under such public water; and to construct and maintain buildings, landing floats, causeways, roadways, and bridges for approaches to or connecting with any such facilities, and landing floats and breakwaters for the protection thereof.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 2:614)