

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to vertiports; creating s. 332.15,  
 3           F.S.; providing legislative intent; providing  
 4           definitions; requiring the Department of  
 5           Transportation to take certain actions regarding  
 6           vertiports; providing applicability; providing design  
 7           and layout plan requirements for vertiport owners;  
 8           providing limitations regarding the exercise of a  
 9           political subdivision's zoning and land use authority  
 10          in regulating vertiports; providing construction;  
 11          providing an effective date.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15           Section 1. Section 332.15, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 16          read:

17           332.15 Vertiports.—

18           (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the  
 19          development of a network of vertiports which will provide  
 20          residents of this state with equitable access to advanced air  
 21          mobility operations for passenger and cargo services.

22           (2) As used in this section, the term:

23           (a) "Advanced air mobility" means an air transport system  
 24          that integrates new, transformational aircraft designs,  
 25          including vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft, and

26 flight technologies to transport passengers and cargo to  
27 locations not traditionally served by current modes of air  
28 transportation, including rural areas and challenging and  
29 complex urban environments.

30 (b) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

31 (c) "Vertiport" means an infrastructure or a system with  
32 supporting services and equipment intended for landing, ground-  
33 handling, and takeoff of manned or unmanned VTOL aircraft.

34 (3) To increase public access to advanced air mobility  
35 operations and to avoid vertiport monopolization or  
36 discrimination, the department shall do all of the following:

37 (a) Subject to the appropriation of funds for such purpose  
38 by the Legislature, fund the planning and construction of  
39 public-use vertiports.

40 (b) Encourage local zoning boards and other land use  
41 authorities to ensure that an adequate number of vertiports are  
42 constructed in this state and are strategically placed to  
43 provide equitable access for all residents.

44 (c) Promote competition and equitable access by  
45 prohibiting the granting of an exclusive right to one or more  
46 vertiport owners or operators or to vertiport operators at one  
47 or more vertiports.

48 (4) This section applies to any vertiport in this state  
49 which is available for public use by any advanced air mobility  
50 operator authorized by the United States Department of

51 Transportation or the Federal Aviation Administration to engage  
52 in passenger or cargo services in scheduled or nonscheduled  
53 service in or affecting interstate commerce.

54 (5) To operate in this state, the owner of each vertiport  
55 subject to this section must do all of the following:

56 (a) Ensure that the vertiport complies with the Federal  
57 Aviation Administration's regulations and guidance relating to  
58 vertiport design and performance standards.

59 (b) Submit a vertiport layout plan to the administrator of  
60 the Federal Aviation Administration in the form and manner  
61 determined by the administrator. Aircraft operations may not be  
62 conducted at the vertiport until the plan is approved.

63 (6) A political subdivision as defined in s. 333.01 may  
64 not exercise its zoning and land use authority to grant or allow  
65 an exclusive right to one or more vertiport owners or operators  
66 but may use such authority to promote reasonable access to  
67 advanced air mobility operations at vertiports.

68 (7) This section is intended to supplement any provision  
69 of federal law pertaining to the design, construction,  
70 operation, or maintenance of a vertiport designed or constructed  
71 with a grant under 49 U.S.C. ss. 47101 et seq. If any provision  
72 of this section is found to be in conflict with federal law,  
73 federal law supersedes this section to the extent of the  
74 conflict.

75 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.