

HB 1253

2005

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Jacksonville Airport Authority,
 3 Consolidated City of Jacksonville, Duval County; amending
 4 chapter 2004-464, Laws of Florida; renaming the authority
 5 as the Jacksonville Aviation Authority; providing an
 6 effective date.

7
 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1 and
 11 section 7 of section 1 of chapter 2004-464, Laws of Florida, are
 12 amended to read:

13 Section 1. Creation of Jacksonville Aviation Airport
 14 Authority.--

15 (1) The charter provisions concerning the airport
 16 operations of the former Jacksonville Port Authority established
 17 pursuant to Chapter 2001-319, Laws of Florida, as amended, are
 18 hereby amended and restated in their entirety to read as
 19 follows: There is hereby created and established as of October
 20 1, 2001, a separate body politic and corporate to be known as
 21 the Jacksonville Aviation Airport Authority and hereinafter
 22 referred to singly as the "authority," which is created as an
 23 agency and political subdivision of the State of Florida in the
 24 nature of counties and not municipalities. This authority is
 25 authorized to exercise its jurisdiction, powers, and duties
 26 within the geographic area defined by the boundary lines of
 27 Duval County as established by section 7.16, Florida Statutes,
 28 which boundary lines also define the geographic area of the City
 29 of Jacksonville, and outside such boundary lines as hereinafter

HB 1253

2005

30 provided. The Jacksonville Aviation ~~Airport~~ Authority shall
31 operate, manage, and control all of the publicly owned airports
32 and ancillary facilities located within Duval County and outside
33 such boundary lines as hereinafter provided. The authority was
34 separated from the former Jacksonville Port Authority pursuant
35 to 2001-319, Laws of Florida, as amended, and this separation
36 shall be reviewed for performance and efficiency after a period
37 of 4 years from October 1, 2001.

38 (2) The governing body for the Jacksonville Aviation
39 ~~Airport~~ Authority shall consist of seven members, three of whom
40 shall be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Jacksonville with
41 the confirmation of the council of the City of Jacksonville, and
42 four of whom shall be appointed by the Governor of Florida with
43 the confirmation of the Senate. Members shall serve for terms of
44 4 years commencing on October 1 of the year of the appointment
45 or for the unexpired portion of a term deemed to have commenced
46 on October 1. Members of the authority, during their terms,
47 shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor or Governor, whoever
48 appointed the member. Members shall continue to serve on the
49 authority until their death, resignation, removal, or until
50 their respective successors are appointed and confirmed. A
51 vacancy occurring during the term of an appointed member on the
52 authority shall be filled only for the balance of the unexpired
53 term. Any member appointed to the authority for two consecutive
54 full terms shall not be eligible for appointment to the
55 authority for the next succeeding term. Provided, however,
56 notwithstanding the above, members initially appointed to the
57 authority shall serve in staggered terms to provide continuity
58 of experience to the authority with two gubernatorial

HB 1253

2005

59 appointments and two mayoral appointments being for initial 2-
 60 year terms, which shall count as a full term for purposes of
 61 term limits provided herein.

62 Section 7. Rights of employees.--

63 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all employment
 64 rights and employee benefits authorized under section 11,
 65 chapter 63-1447, Laws of Florida, as amended, are hereby
 66 confirmed, ratified, and continued, notwithstanding the repeal
 67 of said chapter 63-1447, Laws of Florida, as amended. Effective
 68 October 1, 2001, in order to preserve the rights of employees of
 69 the former Jacksonville Port Authority to continue participation
 70 in the Florida Retirement System pursuant to chapter 121,
 71 Florida Statutes, the authority created by this act (and its
 72 predecessor act) shall be a county agency and employees of the
 73 authority shall participate in the Florida Retirement System,
 74 notwithstanding any law to the contrary. Effective October 1,
 75 2001, those employees of the former Jacksonville Port Authority
 76 who were assigned to any activity related to the operation of
 77 the airport facilities shall become employees of the
 78 Jacksonville Aviation ~~Airport~~ Authority created by this act (and
 79 its predecessor act). Effective October 1, 2001, central
 80 administrative employees shall be employed by either the
 81 Jacksonville Aviation ~~Airport~~ Authority or the Jacksonville Port
 82 Authority, formerly known as the Jacksonville Seaport Authority,
 83 created by this act (and its predecessor act) or as otherwise
 84 agreed by both. It is expressly provided that none of those
 85 employees of the former Jacksonville Port Authority who remain
 86 with the authority created by this act (and its predecessor act)
 87 shall lose any rights or benefits of whatsoever kind or nature

HB 1253

2005

88 afforded to them by any law, ordinance, collective bargaining
 89 agreement, or existing policy or plan, including, but not
 90 limited to, pension benefits by virtue of the change in
 91 corporate structure. In order to effectively implement the
 92 foregoing, the authority shall perform all functions with regard
 93 to its own employees that prior to the operation of the two
 94 authorities created by this act (and its predecessor act) were
 95 performed by the former Jacksonville Port Authority. In order to
 96 specifically preserve the rights of employees of the former
 97 Jacksonville Port Authority to continue participation in the
 98 Florida Retirement System, pursuant to chapter 121, Florida
 99 Statutes, the authority created by this act (and its predecessor
 100 act) shall be a county authority and employees of this authority
 101 who are currently participating in the Florida Retirement System
 102 and all employees of the authority after October 1, 2001, shall
 103 be eligible to participate in the Florida Retirement System.

104 (2) Effective October 1, 2001, the Jacksonville Aviation
 105 ~~Airport~~ Authority firefighters shall be merged into the City of
 106 Jacksonville's Fire and Rescue Department and shall become
 107 employees of the City of Jacksonville; however, with respect to
 108 pension benefits such Jacksonville Aviation ~~Airport~~ Authority
 109 Fire Department employees shall have a one-time option to
 110 continue participation in the Florida Retirement System or to
 111 participate in the City of Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension
 112 Fund. Such option must be exercised no later than November 1,
 113 2001. Upon such merger, firefighting services for the airports
 114 owned and operated by the Jacksonville Aviation ~~Airport~~
 115 Authority shall be provided by the Fire and Rescue Department of
 116 the City of Jacksonville pursuant to a written contract to be

HB 1253

2005

117 entered into by and between the City of Jacksonville and the
118 Jacksonville Aviation ~~Airport~~ Authority. Notwithstanding any
119 provision in this act to the contrary, such merger and contract
120 shall become effective October 1, 2001. If any firefighter who
121 has vested in the Florida Retirement System exercises the option
122 to become a member of the City of Jacksonville Police and Fire
123 Pension Fund, such vested time shall not be included in the City
124 of Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund.

125 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.