

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1399 Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, Hillsborough County

SPONSOR(S): Raulerson

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Local & Federal Affairs Committee	14 Y, 0 N	Kelly	Rojas
2) State Affairs Committee	15 Y, 0 N	Moore	Camechis

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority (Aviation Authority) was created in 1945. The Aviation Authority is an independent special district that has exclusive jurisdiction and management over all airports in Hillsborough County, except those owned by private parties. The Authority's airports include Tampa International Airport and three general aviation airports: Peter O. Knight Airport in Davis Islands, Plant City Airport in Plant City, and Tampa Executive (formerly Vandenberg Airport) in Tampa.

Current law requires all Authority purchases of construction, improvements, repairs, equipment, supplies, materials, services, or work of any nature to be done through a competitive bidding process if the entire cost or value of the purchase exceeds \$30,000.

The bill increases the Aviation Authority's competitive bidding threshold from \$30,000 to \$100,000. Thus, contracts for purchases with a total cost or value exceeding \$100,000 must be competitively bid.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority (Aviation Authority) was created in 1945 by ch. 23339, L.O.F. The numerous special acts relating to the Authority are codified in ch. 2012-234, L.O.F. The Aviation Authority is an independent special district that has exclusive jurisdiction and management over all airports in Hillsborough County, except those owned by private parties. The Authority's airports include Tampa International Airport and three general aviation airports: Peter O. Knight Airport in Davis Islands, Plant City Airport in Plant City, and Tampa Executive (formerly Vandenberg Airport) in Tampa. The Aviation Authority is one of four large hub airports in the state,¹ which classification is determined by the FAA based on the number of passenger boardings each year.²

The Authority is authorized and required to advertise for sealed bids and other competitive selection processes as required by law.³ Current law requires all Authority purchases of construction, improvements, repairs, equipment, supplies, materials, services, or work of any nature to be done through a competitive bidding process if the entire cost or value of the purchase exceeds \$30,000.⁴ The law provides exemptions to the competitive bidding requirement for certain types of purchases, such as purchases of a highly specialized good or service, emergency purchases, and purchases of professional services.⁵

Competitive procurement thresholds for airports vary widely throughout the state as airports are structured differently and governed by different laws. Some airports, such as Miami, are county entities and are thus subject to their respective county's procurement laws. Other airports, such as Tampa, are governed by local authorities. Orlando, like the Aviation Authority, is an independent special district. Currently, Orlando's competitive procurement threshold is set at \$250,000.⁶

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends ch. 2012-234, L.O.F., to increase the Aviation Authority's competitive bidding threshold from \$30,000 to \$100,000. Thus, contracts for purchases with a total cost or value exceeding \$100,000 must be competitively bid. This increased threshold will streamline the procurement process because the Aviation Authority will be able to efficiently procure contracts for goods and services totaling \$100,000 or less.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends ch. 2012-234, L.O.F., to increase the threshold for the award of contracts by the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority from \$30,000 to \$100,000.

Section 2: Provides an effective date.

¹ The other three airports are Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and Orlando.

² See http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/categories/.

³ Ch. 2012-234, Section 6(1)(d), L.O.F.

⁴ Ch. 2012-234, Section 11(1)(a), L.O.F.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Miami and Ft. Lauderdale have procurement thresholds ranging from \$250,000-\$1 million.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? January 24, 2014

WHERE? *The Times*, a daily newspaper of general circulation, published in Hillsborough County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? Not applicable.

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached No

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.