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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to Wakulla County; creating the  
 Wakulla County Airport Authority; providing  
 legislative findings; providing for purpose of the  
 authority and its classification as an independent  
 special district; providing for membership of the  
 governing board; providing powers of the authority;  
 providing for the annual adoption of a budget and  
 reporting and audit requirements; prohibiting the  
 authority's levy of ad valorem taxes; providing an  
 effective date.

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

Section 1. Short title.—This act may be cited as the  
"Wakulla County Airport Authority Act."

Section 2. Legislative findings.—The Legislature finds and  
declares that:

(1) The purpose of this act is to provide for the creation  
of a special district to be known as the "Wakulla County Airport  
Authority" (Authority), for the purpose of owning, operating,  
maintaining, and improving certain real property and associated  
improvements and facilities collectively comprising the Wakulla  
County Airport, contingent upon the transfer of the same to the  
Authority. The Authority is created as an independent special

26 | district under the special district classification system  
 27 | established in chapter 189, Florida Statutes.

28 | (2) There is a particular need to implement a specialized  
 29 | and limited purpose independent special district unit of local  
 30 | government to provide for the ownership, operation, financing,  
 31 | maintenance, and improvement of the airport and appurtenant  
 32 | airport facilities, as defined in this act.

33 | (3) The best alternative for creating the Authority is by  
 34 | special act of the Legislature creating a single independent  
 35 | special district meeting the requirements of chapter 189,  
 36 | Florida Statutes. The airport currently consists of a small,  
 37 | unmanned landing strip that is primarily utilized by residents  
 38 | of surrounding residential communities and nearby businesses,  
 39 | but is also utilized during storms, catastrophic events, and  
 40 | other emergencies and is appropriate for future growth and  
 41 | expansion. The airport is currently owned and operated by the  
 42 | county as a public-use airport. The establishment of the  
 43 | Authority as an independent special district will allow for the  
 44 | airport to be owned, operated, financed, maintained, and  
 45 | improved by an entity whose governing body will consist of and  
 46 | be elected directly by the airport's primary stakeholders. The  
 47 | airport shall continue to be operated as a public-use airport  
 48 | and shall continue to benefit and promote the public health,  
 49 | safety, and welfare of the citizens of Wakulla County and the  
 50 | State of Florida, which is a public and county purpose, and the

51 act shall be liberally construed to effect such purpose. The  
52 exercise of the powers granted by this act are for the benefit  
53 of the citizens of Wakulla County and the State of Florida in  
54 order to improve public health and safety and enhance industry,  
55 employment, economic development, and tourism, all of which  
56 constitute essential public functions.

57 (4) A statement and resolution has been submitted to the  
58 Legislature by the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla  
59 County in accordance with s. 189.031(2)(e), Florida Statutes,  
60 which resolution states the purpose and authority of the  
61 proposed Authority, an explanation of why the Authority is the  
62 best alternative, and that creation of the Authority is  
63 consistent with the approved local government plans of the  
64 county and the board of county commissioners supports the  
65 creation and continued existence and funding of the Authority.

66 (5) It is the intent and purpose of the Legislature that  
67 no debt or obligation of the Authority shall constitute a debt  
68 or obligation of Wakulla County or any local general purpose  
69 government without its consent.

70 (6) The Authority, which is a government of special  
71 purpose, shall have the authority to exercise all of the powers  
72 described in this act and otherwise provided by general law for  
73 the express purpose of owning, operating, maintaining, and  
74 improving the airport facilities, as defined in this act.

75        (7) This act, which shall also constitute the Authority's  
76 charter, may be amended, in whole or in part, only by a  
77 subsequent special act of the Legislature. However, the members  
78 of the governing board of the Authority shall have the authority  
79 to expand or contract the airport through the acquisition or  
80 disposal of real or personal property, which shall not require a  
81 charter amendment or special act of the Legislature.

82        Section 3. Definitions.—As used in this act, the term:

83        (1) "Airport" means the real property comprising the  
84 Wakulla County Airport, as described by the legal description in  
85 this subsection, and as expanded or contracted from time to time  
86 through the acquisition or disposal of property by the members  
87 of the governing board of the Authority, which property is  
88 designed, used, or suitable for the public use of landing and  
89 takeoff of aircraft, along with any areas designed, used, or  
90 suitable for the shelter, servicing, or repair of aircraft and  
91 the receiving and discharging of passenger and cargo, and all  
92 appurtenant areas designed, used, or suitable for access to  
93 airport facilities, buildings, and all rights-of-way. The  
94 boundaries of the airport shall be as follows:

95  
96        From the Government Meander Corner #261, set at mean  
97 High Tide on the North Shore of the Ochlocknee Bay at  
98 the West boundary of Section 1, Township 6 South,  
99 Range 2 West, run thence N 00° 23' 39" W along the

100 West boundary of said Section 1 the distance of 781  
 101 feet to the Point of Beginning. From the Point of  
 102 Beginning thence run W 89° 36' 21" E, the distance of  
 103 200 feet; thence run Northerly and parallel to the  
 104 West boundary of said Section 1, to the West R/W line  
 105 of U.S. Highway No. 98; thence Northerly along the  
 106 West R/W line of said highway, to the West boundary  
 107 line of said Section 1; thence Southerly along the  
 108 West boundary of said Section 1 to the Point of  
 109 Beginning; and being situated in said Section 1,  
 110 Township 6 South, Range 2 West, and containing 15  
 111 acres, more or less.

112  
 113 (2) "Airport facilities" means airport facilities of all  
 114 kinds including, but not limited to, runways, taxiways, landing  
 115 fields, hangars, warehouses, shops, terminals, buildings,  
 116 lighting, and all other facilities and equipment necessary or  
 117 desirable for the landing, taking off, operating, servicing,  
 118 repairing, and parking of aircraft, and the unloading and  
 119 handling of passengers, cargo, mail, express, and freight,  
 120 together with all necessary appurtenances and equipment and all  
 121 properties, rights, easements, and franchises relating thereto  
 122 and deemed necessary or convenient by the Authority in  
 123 connection therewith.

124       (3) "Authority" means the Wakulla County Airport  
 125 Authority, the unit of special purpose local government created  
 126 by this act.

127       (4) "Authority area" means the geographic area comprising  
 128 the Authority, as provided in section 4.

129       (5) "County" means Wakulla County.

130       (6) "Fiscal year" means the period of October 1 to  
 131 September 30 each year.

132       (7) "Governing board" means the governing body of the  
 133 Authority whose members are selected as provided in section 5.

134       (8) "Initial member" means a member appointed to the  
 135 governing board in accordance with section 6, which member shall  
 136 serve on the governing board until such time as the results of  
 137 the inaugural election of members to the governing board have  
 138 been certified.

139       (9) "Member" means a member of the governing board.

140       Section 4. Creation; establishment; boundaries of the  
 141 authority area.—

142       (1) The Authority is created as an independent special  
 143 district under part III of chapter 189, Florida Statutes. All  
 144 notices for the enactment by the Legislature of this special act  
 145 have been provided pursuant to the State Constitution, laws of  
 146 the state, and the Rules of the Florida House of Representatives  
 147 and of the Florida Senate.

148        (2) The boundaries of the authority area shall be as  
149 follows:

150  
151        Commence at the Northwest corner of Section 1,  
152 Township 6 South, Range 2 West, Wakulla County,  
153 Florida; thence run along the Westerly boundary line  
154 of said Section 1, also being the Easterly boundary  
155 line of Section 2, Township 6 South, Range 2 West,  
156 Wakulla County, Florida, South 00 degrees 28 minutes  
157 10 seconds East 856.44 feet to an iron pipe lying on  
158 the Southerly right of way line of a 200.00 feet wide  
159 right of way known as Coastal Highway, also being  
160 known as U.S. Highway #98 and State Road #30, said  
161 point lying on a curve to the left having a radius of  
162 2964.79 feet said point being the POINT OF BEGINNING;  
163 thence leaving said POINT OF BEGINNING and said  
164 Westerly and Easterly boundary line run along said  
165 Southerly right of way line and said curve as follows:  
166 Southeasterly along the arc thru a central angle of 01  
167 degrees 24 minutes 08 seconds for a distance of 72.56  
168 feet, chord of said arc being South 44 degrees 22  
169 minutes 03 seconds East 72.56 feet to a re-bar; thence  
170 run South 45 degrees 30 minutes 19 seconds East 210.34  
171 feet to a concrete monument; thence run South 45  
172 degrees 57 minutes 45 seconds East 242.56 feet to a

173 concrete monument marking the Northwest corner of  
174 Tarpine Subdivision, a subdivision as per map or plat  
175 thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 36, in the  
176 public Records of Wakulla County, Florida; thence run  
177 along the Northerly boundary line of said Tarpine  
178 Subdivision as follows: South 45 degrees 44 minutes 54  
179 seconds East 1231.15 feet to a concrete monument;  
180 thence leaving said Southerly right of way line run  
181 South 44 degrees 11 minutes 08 seconds West 199.72  
182 feet to a concrete monument; thence run South 45  
183 degrees 43 minutes 36 seconds East 249.77 feet; thence  
184 run North 44 degrees 17 minutes 51 seconds East 199.96  
185 feet to an iron pipe lying on the Southerly right of  
186 way line of said Coastal Highway; thence run along  
187 said Southerly right of way line as follows: South 45  
188 degrees 44 minutes 50 seconds East 2122.00 feet to a  
189 concrete monument, marking a point of curve to the  
190 right having a radius of 3337.06 feet; thence run  
191 Southeasterly along the arc thru a central angle of 21  
192 degrees 51 minutes 12 seconds for a distance of  
193 1272.80 feet, chord of said arc being South 34 degrees  
194 47 minutes 20 seconds East 1265.10 feet; thence  
195 leaving said Southerly right of way line run South 73  
196 degrees 35 minutes 04 Seconds West 196.73 feet to an  
197 iron pipe; thence run South 23 degrees 52 minutes 33



198 seconds East 92.57 feet to an iron pipe; thence run  
 199 South 22 degrees 20 minutes 08 seconds East 106.84  
 200 feet to concrete monument marking the intersection of  
 201 the Southerly boundary line of said Tarpine  
 202 Subdivision with the Northerly boundary line of Bay  
 203 Park Subdivision, a subdivision as per map or plat  
 204 thereof described in Plat Book 1, Page 71, in the  
 205 Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida; thence run  
 206 along said Southerly boundary line of Tarpine  
 207 Subdivision and the Northerly and Westerly boundary  
 208 line of said Bay Park Subdivision as follows: thence  
 209 run South 86 degrees 06 minutes 20 seconds West 145.99  
 210 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 86 degrees 00  
 211 minutes 07 seconds West 224.86 feet to an iron pipe;  
 212 thence run South 85 degrees 43 minutes 47 seconds West  
 213 74.94 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 86  
 214 degrees 20 minutes 18 seconds West 114.98 feet to an  
 215 iron pipe; thence run South 85 degrees 57 minutes 24  
 216 seconds West 99.91 feet to a concrete monument; thence  
 217 run South 03 degrees 53 minutes 20 seconds East 139.72  
 218 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 03 degrees 57  
 219 minutes 12 seconds East 99.95 feet to an iron pipe;  
 220 thence run South 04 degrees 01 minutes 33 seconds East  
 221 75.19 feet to an iron pipe; thence run South 03  
 222 degrees 55 minutes 32 seconds East 284.56 feet to a

223 concrete monument lying on the Northerly Boundary line  
 224 of Panacea Coastal Estates Unit #1, a Subdivision as  
 225 per map or plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page  
 226 29, in the Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida;  
 227 thence leaving said Westerly boundary line of Bay Park  
 228 Subdivision continue along the Southerly boundary line  
 229 of said Tarpine Subdivision and the Northerly boundary  
 230 line of Panacea Coastal Estates Subdivision Unit #1 as  
 231 follows: South 66 degrees 06 minutes 25 seconds West  
 232 61.06 feet; thence run North 64 degrees 27 minutes 48  
 233 seconds West 103.53 feet; thence run North 64 degrees  
 234 30 minutes 42 seconds West 111.17 feet; thence run  
 235 North 63 degrees 49 minutes 22 seconds West 22.51  
 236 feet; thence run North 64 degrees 36 minutes 23  
 237 seconds West 73.70 feet; thence run North 64 degrees  
 238 13 minutes 41 seconds West 25.18 feet; thence run  
 239 North 64 degrees 26 minutes 45 seconds West 78.48  
 240 feet; thence run North 64 degrees 26 minutes 10  
 241 seconds West 181.61 feet; thence run North 64 degrees  
 242 26 minutes 27 seconds West 25.92 feet; thence run  
 243 North 64 degrees 24 minutes 07 seconds West 103.64  
 244 feet; thence run North 59 degrees 54 minutes 20  
 245 seconds West 278.92 feet; thence run South 40 degrees  
 246 25 minutes 05 seconds West 10.04 feet; thence run  
 247 North 50 degrees 03 minutes 26 seconds West 59.96

248 feet; thence run North 49 degrees 48 minutes 08  
249 seconds West 217.73 feet to a re-bar; thence run North  
250 49 degrees 53 minutes 37 seconds West 238.69 feet to a  
251 concrete monument; thence run North 49 degrees 54  
252 minutes 00 seconds West 103.77 feet; thence run North  
253 49 degrees 35 minutes 31 seconds West 137.68 feet to a  
254 concrete monument; thence run North 18 degrees 43  
255 minutes 14 seconds East 50.48 feet; thence run North  
256 71 degrees 13 minutes 17 seconds West 217.50 feet;  
257 thence run North 71 degrees 22 minutes 28 seconds West  
258 60.00 feet to a re-bar; thence run North 18 degrees 23  
259 minutes 31 seconds East 38.48 feet to a concrete  
260 monument; thence run North 53 degrees 08 minutes 39  
261 seconds West 113.52 feet to a rod and cap; thence run  
262 North 53 degrees 15 minutes 01 seconds West 113.50  
263 feet to a point lying on the Easterly boundary line of  
264 River Shore Heights, a subdivision as per map or plat  
265 thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 28, in the  
266 Public Records of Wakulla County, Florida; thence  
267 leaving said Northerly boundary of Panacea Coastal  
268 Estates Unit #1, continue along said Southerly  
269 boundary line of Tarpine Subdivision and the Easterly  
270 and the Northerly boundary line of said River Shore  
271 Heights Subdivision as follows: North 18 degrees 46  
272 minutes 42 seconds East 81.91 feet to a concrete

273 monument; thence run North 18 degrees 45 minutes 10  
274 seconds East 81.87 feet; thence run North 18 degrees  
275 46 minutes 01 seconds East 151.10 feet to a concrete  
276 monument; thence run North 71 degrees 20 minutes 47  
277 seconds West 157.35 feet to a concrete monument;  
278 thence run South 18 degrees 34 minutes 36 seconds West  
279 43.07 feet to a concrete monument marking a point of  
280 curve to the left having a radius of 2276.02 feet;  
281 thence run Northwesterly along the arc thru a central  
282 angle of 09 degrees 16 minutes 18 seconds for a  
283 distance of 368.31 feet, chord of said arc being North  
284 67 degrees 24 minutes 16 seconds West 367.90 feet to a  
285 concrete monument; thence run North 72 degrees 11  
286 minutes 45 seconds West 79.71 feet; thence run North  
287 71 degrees 17 minutes 57 seconds West 79.88 feet to a  
288 concrete monument; thence run North 71 degrees 49  
289 minutes 57 seconds West 75.13 feet to an iron pipe;  
290 thence run North 71 degrees 47 minutes 09 seconds West  
291 83.90 feet; thence run North 71 degrees 49 minutes 14  
292 seconds West 109.91 feet to a concrete monument lying  
293 on the Easterly right of way line of a 60.00 foot wide  
294 right of way known as Bay Drive (Cherry Street), said  
295 point also marking the Southwest corner of said  
296 Tarpine Subdivision; thence leaving said Southerly  
297 boundary line of Tarpine Subdivision and the Northerly

298 boundary line of said River Shore Heights run along  
299 said Easterly right of way line as follows: South 00  
300 degrees 17 minutes 01 seconds East 195.54 feet to an  
301 iron pipe; thence run South 00 degrees 28 minutes 49  
302 seconds East 131.97 feet to an iron pipe; thence run  
303 South 00 degrees 21 minutes 40 seconds East 131.41  
304 feet to an iron pipe marking the intersection of said  
305 Easterly right of way line with the Northerly right of  
306 way line of an 80.00 foot wide right of way known as  
307 Surf Road (County Road 372), said point lying a curve  
308 to the left having a radius of 5769.65 feet; thence  
309 leaving said Easterly right of way line run along said  
310 Northerly right of way line and said curve as follows:  
311 Northwesterly along the arc thru a central angle of 00  
312 degrees 38 minutes 01 seconds for a distance of 63.79  
313 feet, chord of said arc being North 72 degrees 37  
314 minutes 56 seconds West 63.79 feet to a re-bar; thence  
315 continue along said Northerly right of way line and  
316 said curve having a radius of 5769.65 feet,  
317 Northwesterly along the arc thru a central angle of 01  
318 degrees 02 minutes 19 seconds for a distance of 104.59  
319 feet, chord of said arc being North 72 degrees 33  
320 minutes 02 seconds West 104.59 feet to a rod and cap;  
321 thence continue along said curve having a radius of  
322 5769.65 feet Northwesterly along the arc thru a

323 central angle of 02 degrees 29 minutes 08 seconds for  
324 a distance of 250.30 feet, chord of said arc being  
325 North 74 degrees 53 minutes 17 seconds West 250.28  
326 feet to a re-bar marking the intersection of said  
327 Northerly right of way line with the Easterly boundary  
328 line of the Refuge at Panacea, a subdivision thereof  
329 recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 18, in the Public  
330 records of Wakulla County, Florida; thence leaving  
331 said Northerly right of way line run along said  
332 Easterly boundary line as follows: North 00 degrees 15  
333 minutes 56 seconds West 797.70 feet to a rod and cap;  
334 thence run North 00 degrees 16 minutes 27 seconds West  
335 167.97 feet to a rod and cap; thence run North 00  
336 degrees 12 minutes 47 seconds West 174.40 feet to a  
337 rod and cap; thence run North 00 degrees 13 minutes 38  
338 seconds West 527.44 feet to a rod and cap; thence run  
339 North 00 degrees 15 minutes 28 seconds West 105.49  
340 feet to a rod and cap; thence run North 00 degrees 12  
341 minutes 19 seconds West 211.03 feet to rod and cap;  
342 thence run North 00 degrees 13 minutes 09 seconds West  
343 301.85 feet to a re-bar; thence run North 00 degrees  
344 12 minutes 36 seconds West 100.00 feet to a re-bar;  
345 thence run North 00 degrees 12 minutes 31 seconds West  
346 99.98 feet to a re-bar; thence run North 00 degrees 14  
347 minutes 50 seconds West 100.01 feet to a re-bar;

348 thence run North 00 degrees 18 minutes 36 seconds West  
 349 379.25 feet to rod and cap; thence leaving said  
 350 Easterly boundary line run North 00 degrees 13 minutes  
 351 06 seconds East 87.21 feet to a rod and cap marking  
 352 the Southeast corner of Lot 104 of said Refuge at  
 353 Panacea, said point lying on the Northerly right of  
 354 way line of Hidden Pond Lane, said point also marking  
 355 a curve to the left having a radius of 136.00 feet;  
 356 thence run along said curve and said Northerly right  
 357 of way line, also being the Southerly boundary line of  
 358 said Lot 104 as follows: Southwesterly along the arc  
 359 thru a central angle of 19 degrees 37 minutes 02  
 360 seconds for a distance of 46.56 feet, chord of said  
 361 arc being South 80 degrees 11 minutes 20 seconds West  
 362 46.34 feet to a re-bar; thence run South 89 degrees 55  
 363 minutes 59 seconds West 54.57 feet to a rod and cap  
 364 marking the Southwest corner of said Lot 104; thence  
 365 leaving said Southerly boundary line of said Lot 104,  
 366 run along the Southerly boundary line of Lot 103 of  
 367 said Refuge at Panacea and continue along said  
 368 Northerly right of way line South 89 degrees 55  
 369 minutes 59 seconds West 92.25 feet to a rod and cap;  
 370 thence leaving said Northerly right of way line run  
 371 along the Westerly boundary line of said Lot 103,  
 372 North 00 degrees 32 minutes 56 seconds West 208.04

373 feet to a rod and cap marking the Northwest corner of  
 374 said Lot 103; thence run along the Northerly boundary  
 375 line of said Lot 103, and said Lot 104 as follows:  
 376 North 71 degrees 45 minutes 31 seconds East 99.53 feet  
 377 to a rod and cap; thence run North 69 degrees 29  
 378 minutes 22 seconds East 46.01 feet to a rod and cap;  
 379 thence run North 74 degrees 54 minutes 54 seconds East  
 380 58.17 feet to a rod and cap; thence leaving said  
 381 Northerly boundary line of said Lot 104, run North 00  
 382 degrees 24 minutes 24 seconds West 300.28 feet to a  
 383 re-bar lying on the Southerly right of way line of  
 384 said Coastal Highway (U.S. Highway 98) said point  
 385 lying on a curve to the left having a radius of  
 386 2964.79 feet; thence run along said Southerly right of  
 387 way line and said curve Southeasterly along the arc  
 388 thru a central angle of 06 degrees 50 minutes 00  
 389 seconds for a distance 353.59 feet, chord of said arc  
 390 being South 40 degrees 14 minutes 59 seconds East  
 391 353.38 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing  
 392 198.34 acres more or less.

393  
 394 (3) The charter of the Authority, as provided in this act,  
 395 may be amended, terminated, or repealed only by special act of  
 396 the Legislature. However, the members of the Authority shall  
 397 have the authority to expand or contract the airport through the



398 acquisition or disposal of real or personal property, which  
399 shall not require a charter amendment or special act of the  
400 Legislature.

401 Section 5. Governing board; meetings; organization;  
402 duties; terms of office.—

403 (1) The governing board shall exercise the powers granted  
404 to the Authority pursuant to this act.

405 (2) The governing board shall be composed of three voting  
406 members.

407 (3) Not later than 30 days after the effective date of  
408 this act, and annually thereafter during January of each year,  
409 the governing board shall hold an organizational meeting at  
410 which they shall elect one member to serve as chair, one member  
411 to serve as vice-chair, and one member to serve as secretary-  
412 treasurer.

413 (4) When any vacancy on the governing board shall occur,  
414 the remaining members shall elect a new member to serve for the  
415 remainder of the unexpired term of office. A vacancy shall occur  
416 if a member voluntarily resigns, no longer qualifies for  
417 membership, or is removed by an affirmative vote of a majority  
418 of the members at a meeting of the governing board due to  
419 misfeasance, malfeasance, or neglect of duty, where excessive  
420 absences from meetings of the governing board, as defined in the  
421 bylaws, shall constitute neglect of duty.

422       (5) No member shall be entitled to any compensation for  
 423 his or her services; however, each member shall be entitled to  
 424 receive travel and per diem expenses as set forth in s. 112.061,  
 425 Florida Statutes.

426       (6) Unless specified otherwise in this act, notice for and  
 427 the conduct of the governing board's meetings shall be pursuant  
 428 to and in accordance with s. 189.015 and chapter 286, Florida  
 429 Statutes.

430       (7) At any meeting of the governing board, a majority of  
 431 the members constitutes a quorum for the purposes of conducting  
 432 its business and exercising its powers and for all other  
 433 purposes. Action taken by the Authority shall be upon a vote of  
 434 a majority of the members present unless general law requires a  
 435 greater number.

436       (8) The governing board shall keep the permanent records  
 437 of the Authority which shall include, but not be limited to, the  
 438 recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings,  
 439 certificates, and any and all written documentation of official  
 440 actions of the Authority. The Authority records shall at  
 441 reasonable times be opened to inspection in the same manner as  
 442 municipal records pursuant to chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The  
 443 Authority records shall be kept at the office or other regular  
 444 place of business maintained by the governing board in a  
 445 designated location in the county.

446       (9) Members shall annually file a statement of financial  
447 interest pursuant to chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and any  
448 other financial disclosures required by general law for elected  
449 officers serving on the governing body of an independent special  
450 district.

451       (10) The Authority and its members, employees, and agents  
452 shall be entitled to sovereign immunity as set forth in s.  
453 768.28, Florida Statutes.

454       Section 6. Elections; electors; qualifying; initial  
455 membership of governing board.—

456       (1) All elections of members to the governing board shall  
457 be conducted on a nonpartisan basis without designation of  
458 political party affiliation. All elections shall be conducted  
459 through the Wakulla County Supervisor of Elections, in the  
460 manner provided by general law.

461       (2) Any person who is a resident of the authority area,  
462 who has qualified as an elector of this state, and who registers  
463 as prescribed by law, shall be an elector of the Authority.

464       (3) Each candidate for member must be a qualified elector  
465 of the Authority. Any elector of the Authority who wishes to  
466 become a candidate for member shall qualify with the Wakulla  
467 County Supervisor of Elections for the initial election and for  
468 each election thereafter. The qualifying period for candidates  
469 shall be set forth by the Wakulla County Supervisor of  
470 Elections.

471 (4) For the inaugural election of members, one member  
472 shall be elected to serve an initial term of 2 years. Two  
473 members shall be elected to serve an initial term of 4 years  
474 each. Thereafter, each member shall be elected for a 4-year  
475 term. There shall be no limitations on the ability of any member  
476 to serve consecutive or multiple terms.

477 (5) The inaugural election of members shall be held within  
478 90 days after the effective date of this act, unless this date  
479 is required to be changed to a date concurrent with any  
480 countywide or statewide election. The candidates receiving the  
481 highest number of votes in the election shall be elected. The  
482 term of office for an elected member shall begin immediately  
483 after official certification of the results of the election and  
484 shall expire upon the assumption of office by his or her  
485 successor.

486 (6) Beginning on the effective date of this act, the  
487 Authority shall initially be governed by a governing board  
488 consisting of the following members:

489 (a) George Shively.

490 (b) Ted Recker.

491 (c) Steve Fults.

492 Section 7. Powers of the Authority.—The Authority, through  
493 the governing board, is hereby authorized and empowered to:

494 (1) Adopt bylaws consistent with this act for the  
495 regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business.

496        (2) Adopt an official seal.

497        (3) Maintain an office at such place or places as it may  
 498 designate.

499        (4) Acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise; lease  
 500 as lessee or lessor; and dispose of real property or any estate  
 501 therein within the boundaries of the authority area in order to  
 502 expand or contract the airport or otherwise in furtherance of  
 503 the Authority's purpose set forth in this act. The Authority  
 504 shall have the power to acquire property by eminent domain in  
 505 order to expand the airport to execute the Authority's airport  
 506 master plan or meet regulatory requirements for the operation of  
 507 a public-use airport and to remove obstructions and otherwise  
 508 comply with applicable state and federal regulatory requirements  
 509 for an airport.

510        (5) Acquire, own, lease as lessee or lessor, plan for,  
 511 construct, reconstruct, improve, extend, enlarge, equip, repair,  
 512 maintain, and operate such airport facilities within the  
 513 boundaries of the authority area as the Authority shall  
 514 determine to be convenient and proper in the performance of the  
 515 duties and purposes of this act.

516        (6) Establish by resolution and collect rates, fees, and  
 517 other charges for the use of any airport facilities.

518        (7) Impose by resolution and collect non-ad valorem  
 519 special assessments pursuant to the uniform method of collection  
 520 provided in ss. 197.3631-197.3635, Florida Statutes, for

521 services and improvements that provide a special benefit to real  
522 property within the authority area.

523 (8) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements  
524 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the  
525 execution of its powers under this act, and to employ such  
526 consulting and other engineers, superintendents, managers,  
527 construction and financial experts, accountants, and attorneys,  
528 and such other employees and agents as may, in the judgment of  
529 the Authority, be deemed necessary and to fix their  
530 compensation, provided, however, that all such expenses shall be  
531 payable solely from funds made available under this act.

532 (9) Apply for and accept grants of money, materials, or  
533 property of any kind for the airport and any airport facilities  
534 and any other development of land as the Authority shall  
535 determine to be convenient and proper in the performance of the  
536 duties and purposes of this act from any federal or state  
537 agency, political subdivision, municipality, or other public  
538 body, or from any other persons.

539 (10) Enter into interlocal agreements or join with any  
540 other general or special purpose local governments, public  
541 agencies, or authorities in the exercise of common powers.

542 (11) Sue and be sued in the name of the Authority and to  
543 participate as a party in any civil, administrative, or other  
544 action.

545       (12) Issue bonds, revenue certificates, and other  
546 certificates of indebtedness payable from revenues of the  
547 Authority, which power shall be exercised in such manner and  
548 subject to such limitations as are provided by law for the  
549 authorization of debt by a municipality and s. 189.051, Florida  
550 Statutes.

551       (13) Exercise all of the powers relating to aviation  
552 conferred upon municipalities by general law, including chapter  
553 332, Florida Statutes, except as otherwise provided in this act.

554       (14) Do all other acts and things necessary or convenient  
555 to carry out the powers granted by this act.

556       Section 8. Adoption of budget; annual reporting; audits.-

557       (1) The Authority shall annually adopt a budget each  
558 fiscal year in accordance with s. 189.016, Florida Statutes, and  
559 other applicable general law and have the authority to  
560 appropriate and expend revenue in accordance with that budget.  
561 Any excess funds from any prior fiscal year shall be carried  
562 over into the subsequent budget year, as generally provided by  
563 law.

564       (2) The Authority shall comply with all reporting,  
565 financial reporting, and audit requirements for independent  
566 special districts provided in s. 189.016, Florida Statutes, and  
567 other applicable general law.

568       Section 9. Prohibition on Authority levy of taxes; liens;  
569 exemption from taxation.-

570       (1) The Authority shall not have the power or authority to  
 571 levy or impose an ad valorem tax on real estate or tangible  
 572 personal property or any other form of tax except as provided by  
 573 general law.

574       (2) The Authority shall not have the power or authority to  
 575 impose liens on real or personal property, except as expressly  
 576 provided by general law and liens for non-ad valorem assessments  
 577 collected in accordance with the uniform method of collection,  
 578 ss. 197.3631-197.3635, Florida Statutes.

579       (3) The accomplishment of the authorized purposes of the  
 580 Authority is in all respects for the benefit of the people of  
 581 Wakulla County and the state, for the increase of their commerce  
 582 and prosperity, and for the improvement of the state's aviation  
 583 system. Since the Authority will perform essential governmental  
 584 functions for the public health, safety, and welfare in  
 585 accomplishing its purposes, the Authority is not required to pay  
 586 any taxes of any kind whatsoever on its property acquired or  
 587 used by it for such purposes or upon any revenues at any time  
 588 received by it. Further, the bonds, notes, and other obligations  
 589 of the Authority, their transfer, and the income therefrom,  
 590 including any profits made on the sale thereof, are at all times  
 591 free from taxation of any kind by the state or any political  
 592 subdivision or other agency or instrumentality thereof. The  
 593 Authority is entitled to the treatment of special districts  
 594 provided in s. 189.055, Florida Statutes, for purposes of s.



595 | 196.199, Florida Statutes.

596 |       Section 10. Wakulla County participation.—

597 |       (1) The Authority shall coordinate with the county to  
598 | ensure that the Authority's airport master plan and any other  
599 | land uses within the authority area contemplated or adopted by  
600 | the Authority are consistent with the county's comprehensive  
601 | plan and land development code.

602 |       (2) The county shall cooperate with the Authority in the  
603 | transition of the airport to Authority control and operation in  
604 | furtherance of the purposes of this act. In the county's sole  
605 | discretion, the county is authorized, but not required, to  
606 | expend county funds to pay the expenses of the Authority and  
607 | costs associated with the purposes of this act, and the  
608 | expenditure of county funds for such purposes constitutes a  
609 | proper county and public purpose. In the county's sole  
610 | discretion, the county is authorized, but not required, to use  
611 | county personnel and equipment to perform any acts necessary or  
612 | convenient to carry out the purposes of this act, and the use of  
613 | county personnel and equipment for such purposes constitutes a  
614 | proper county and public purpose.

615 |       Section 11. Authority acquisition of airport.—Nothing  
616 | contained in this act shall be construed as transferring the  
617 | airport or any airport facilities to the Authority or requiring  
618 | that the county or any other entity transfer the airport or any  
619 | airport facilities to the Authority. The legislative intent of

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620 this act is to establish an independent special district that is  
621 authorized and empowered to own, operate, finance, maintain, and  
622 improve the airport and the airport facilities as set forth in  
623 this act, contingent upon the transfer of the same to the  
624 Authority.

625 Section 12. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
626 law.