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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

AN ACT

RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- AIRPORTS AND LANDING FIELDS

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 13, 2003

Referred To: Senate Government Oversight

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: 1 SECTION 1. Sections 1-2-1, 1-2-1.1, 1-2-2, 1-2-11, 1-2-15, 1-2-17 and 1-2-17.1 of the 2 General Laws in Chapter 1-2 entitled "Airports and Landing Fields" are hereby amended to read 3 as follows: 4 1-2-1. Powers of the director of the Rhode Island airport corporation Powers of the 5 <u>director of transportation. --</u> (a) The director has supervision over the state airport at Warwick 6 and any other airports constructed or operated by the state. The director shall enforce the 7 provisions of this chapter. Furthermore, the director is authorized to promulgate rules and 8 regulations for the safe and efficient operation of airports, airport facilities, and grounds. 9 (b) As used in this chapter: 10 (1) "Airport corporation" means the Rhode Island airport corporation. 11 (2) (1) "Director" means the executive director of the Rhode Island airport corporation. 12 director of the department of transportation. 13 (2) "Department" means department of transportation. 14 1-2-1.1. Powers relating to vehicular traffic accessing airport facilities -- T.F. Green 15 **State Airport.** -- (a) (1) The Rhode Island airport corporation department is authorized: 16 (i) To impose charges on customers of rental companies, as defined in section 31-34.1-1,

who directly or indirectly use Warwick Station or the T.F. Green State Airport, at the rates that

the Rhode Island airport corporation director may deem necessary to provide adequate revenue to

pay all costs of constructing, reconstructing, expanding, reconfiguring, operating, and

maintaining Warwick Station regardless of whether those charges may have an anticompetitive effect; and

- (ii) To regulate the access of vehicular traffic to airport properties including by excluding
 one or more classes of vehicular traffic from accessing portions of airport roadways, parking lots,
 curbsides and other vehicular facilities.
 - (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of Rhode Island airport corporation the director to impose other fees, charges, rates, or rentals including any other fees, charges, rates, or rentals imposed on rental companies or to adopt other regulations.
 - (b) All customer facility charges collected under the authority of paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section and all customer facility charges collected by any rental company from customers under color of those provisions, or pursuant to regulations adopted by the airport corporation department, constitute a trust fund for the airport corporation department until paid. That trust is enforceable against: (1) the rental company; (2) any officer, agent, servant, or employee of any rental company responsible for either the collection or payment, or both, of the customer facility charge; (3) any person receiving any part of the fund without consideration, or knowing that the rental company or any officer, agent, servant, or employee of any rental company is committing a breach of trust; and (4) the estates, heirs, and representatives of persons or entities described in subdivisions (1) -- (3) of this subsection; provided, that a customer to whom a refund has been properly made, or any person who receives payment of a lawful obligation of the rental company from that fund, is presumed to have received that amount in good faith and without any knowledge of the breach of trust.
 - (c) If the airport corporation or any officer director of the corporation department believes that the payment to the airport corporation department of the trust fund established under subsection (b) of this section will be jeopardized by delay, neglect, or misappropriation, the airport corporation department or officer shall notify the rental company that the trust fund shall be segregated, and kept separate and apart from all other funds and assets of the rental company and shall not be commingled with any other funds or assets. The notice shall be given by either hand delivery or by registered mail, return receipt requested. Within four (4) days after the sending of the notice, all of the customer facility charges which thereafter either become collectible or are collected shall be deposited daily in any financial institution in the state as defined in title 19 and those customer facility charges designated as a special fund in trust for the airport corporation department and payable to the airport corporation by the rental company as trustee of that fund.
 - (d) The penalty for misappropriations provided by section 44-19-37 shall apply as

though that section referred to "customer facility charge" in each place where it refers to "tax".

(e) The provisions of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section are not exclusive, and are in addition to all other remedies which the <u>airport corporation</u> <u>director</u> may employ in the enforcement and collection of customer facility charges.

<u>1-2-2. Conferring with persons versed in aviation -- Co-operation with federal</u> <u>agencies -- Employment of assistants. --</u> The director of <u>transportation</u> is authorized to confer with persons versed in aviation, to cooperate with the various United States government agencies interested in aviation, and to employ and discharge at his or her pleasure engineers, architects, and other assistants as he or she may deem advisable and fix their compensation within the amounts appropriated for their compensation, subject however to the approval of the director of administration.

<u>1-2-11. Interest of airport corporation employees prohibited.</u> Interest of department of transportation employees prohibited. -- No employee of the airport corporation department of transportation shall have any financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any of the land or any estate or interest in land acquired by the state pursuant to section 1-2-3, or in any contract or undertaking relating to the construction or equipment of a state airport, or in the laying out of its grounds.

<u>1-2-15. Leasing for purposes of national defense.</u> The <u>airport corporation</u> department of transportation may lease to the United States government or agencies of the United States government, when the lease concerns matters of national defense or aviation safety or convenience, any portion of any airport or landing field or any of the buildings or structures on the airport or landing field for a period or periods not to exceed fifty (50) years; the lease to be executed by the director containing any reasonable conditions, rules, restrictions and regulations as the assistant director for airports deems suitable or necessary and be approved as to substance by the director of administration and as to form by the attorney general.

1-2-17. Payment for compensation for municipal services to the city of Warwick.

[Effective until July 1, 2005.] -- The Rhode Island airport corporation department of transportation, from a parking surcharge at the T.F. Green state airport as defined by a 1988 agreement between the state acting by and through the director of transportation and the city of Warwick, shall pay to the city of Warwick out of the parking revenue received at T.F. Green state airport as compensation for municipal services provided at T.F. Green state airport, a sum of not less than two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) for fiscal year 1994 payable quarterly; for each fiscal year after 1994, this sum may be reviewed and/or renegotiated by the mayor of the city of Warwick and the airport corporation department of transportation, but in no

event will the sum be less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in any fiscal year, provided any payments provided or any portion of these payments is not disapproved by the F.A.A. Beginning in fiscal year 1995, in the event that the F.A.A. disapproves this payment from

the airport corporation department of transportation, the state shall pay to the city of Warwick the

5 sums of money required to insure that the city of Warwick receives two hundred and seventy five

thousand dollars (\$275,000).

1-2-17. Payment for compensation for municipal services to the city of Warwick.

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1-2-17.1. Sales taxes and surcharges on customer facility charges. -- (a) Moneys due and payable as sales taxes and rental vehicle surcharges on customer facility charges shall be deposited in a restricted receipt account entitled "receipts of sales taxes and surcharges on customer facility charges". The Rhode Island airport corporation department of transportation shall provide to the department of administration information related to the amount of customer facility charges remitted on or before June 30 of each year.

- (b) The amounts on deposit in the account for receipts of sales taxes and surcharges on customer facility charges shall be transferred to the city of Warwick as general revenues.
- 31 (c) "Customer facility charge" means the customer facility charge collected by rental 32 companies (as defined in section 31-34.1-1) pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Rhode 33 Island airport corporation department of transportation.
- 34 SECTION 2. Chapter 1-2 of the General Laws entitled "Airports and Landing Fields" is

hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

- 2 <u>1-2-21. Assistant director for airports. Within the department of transportation there</u>
- 3 shall be an assistant director for airports who is qualified in aeronautics. The assistant director
- 4 shall be appointed by the director, with the approval of the governor, and in accordance with the
- 5 requirements of the state merit system act, chapter 4 of title 36. The assistant director for airports
- 6 <u>shall exercise the powers and duties of the department and director relating to aeronautics. The</u>
- 7 <u>assistant director shall devote his or her entire time to the duties of his or her office as required</u>
- 8 and prescribed by this title and shall not be actively engaged or employed in any other profession
- 9 <u>or business while holding the office of assistant director.</u>
- 10 <u>1-2-22. Employment of airport personnel.</u> For the state airport at Warwick, the director shall employ an airport manager any other assistants to hold office at his or her pleasure,
- 12 <u>fix their duties and salaries within the amounts appropriated, and incur any other assistants to</u>
- 13 <u>hold office at his or her pleasure, fix their duties and salaries within the amounts appropriated,</u>
- and incur any other expenses that may be authorized by the general assembly within the amounts
- 15 appropriated and in accordance with the requirements of the state merit system act, chapter 4, of
- 16 <u>title 36.</u> With the same limitations, he or she may employ similar employees for each other
- 17 <u>airport that may be constructed or operated by the state. Provided, further, that the director share</u>
- 18 <u>fix the duties and salaries of all personnel currently employed by the Rhode Island airport</u>
- 19 <u>corporation who performs duties relative to the operation of the state airports or otherwise.</u>
- 20 <u>1-2-23. Powers of airport managers. Upon his or her appointment and qualification as</u>
- 21 <u>airport manager, as provided in section 1-2-5, for the state airport at Warwick or for any other</u>
- 22 <u>airport constructed or operated by the state, the airport manger shall take possession and assume</u>
- 23 control of the airport and proceed to operate and manage the airport.
- 24 <u>1-2-24. Transfer of records and other property.</u> All books, papers, records, current
- 25 appropriations and relevant property necessary for the airport manager to operate and manage the
- 26 <u>airport shall be transferred thereto by the airport corporation.</u>
- 27 <u>1-2-25. Transfer of employees. All employees of the airport corporation deemed by</u>
- 28 the director of the department of transportation and the airport manager, and subject to the labor
- 29 <u>laws of this state and any applicable bargaining agreement, deemed to be essential to the</u>
- 30 operation of the airport, are hereby transferred to the department of transportation. The director
- 31 of the department of transportation, subject to any applicable collective bargaining agreement,
- 32 <u>assign appropriate titles and duties to said employees and shall promulgate a listing of said titles</u>
- and duties within six (6) months from the effective date of this section.
- 34 SECTION 3. Sections 1-4-2, 1-4-3.1, 1-4-6, 1-4-8, 1-4-9, 1-4-13, 1-4-14 and 1-4-15 of

1	the General Laws in Chapter 1-4 entitled "Uniform Aeronautical Regulatory Act" are hereby
2	amended to read as follows:
3	1-4-2. Definitions When used in this chapter:
4	(1) "Aeronautics" means transportation by aircraft, air instruction, the operation, repair,
5	or maintenance of aircraft, and the design, operation, repair, or maintenance of airports, landing
6	fields, or other air navigation facilities.
7	(2) "Aircraft" means any contrivance now known or invented, used, or designed for
8	navigation of, or flight in, the air, except a parachute or other contrivance designed for air
9	navigation but used primarily as safety equipment.
10	(3) "Air instruction" means the imparting of aeronautical information by any aviation
11	instructor or in any air school or flying club.
12	(4) "Airport" means any area of land, water, or both, which is used or is made available
13	for the landing and take off of aircraft, and which provides facilities for the shelter, supply, and
14	repair of aircraft and which, as to size, design, surface, marking, equipment, and management
15	meets the minimum requirements established from time to time by the director.
16	(5) "Air school" means any person engaged in giving, offering to give, or advertising,
17	representing, or holding himself or herself out as giving, with or without compensation or other
18	award, instruction in aeronautics in flying, in ground subjects, or in both.
19	(6) "Aviation instructor" means any individual engaged in giving, or offering to give,
20	instruction in aeronautics in flying, in ground subjects, or in both either with or without
21	compensation or other reward, without advertising his or her occupation, without calling his or
22	her facilities "air school" or any equivalent term, and without employing or using other
23	instructors.
24	(7) "Certificated aircraft" means any aircraft for which an aircraft certificate other than a
25	registration certificate has been issued by the government of the United States.
26	(8) "Chief aeronautics inspector" or "aeronautics inspector" means an employee of the
27	Rhode Island airport corporation, as defined in the Rhode Island airport corporation personnel job
28	description manual, who is charged by the director to enforce the provisions of this chapter.
29	(9) "Civil aircraft" means any aircraft other than a public aircraft.
30	(10) "Dealer in aircraft" or "aircraft dealer" means any person who engages in a
31	business, a substantial part of which consists of the manufacture, selling, or exchanging of aircraft
32	and who is registered as a dealer with the federal government.
33	(11) "Director" means the executive director of the Rhode Island airport corporation.
34	"Deputy director" means the deputy director of the Rhode Island airport corporation.

transportation.

- 2 (12) "Flying club" means any person (other than an individual) who, neither for profit 3 nor reward, owns, leases, or uses one or more aircraft for the purpose of instruction, pleasure, or 4 both.
 - (13) "Landing field" means any area of land, water, or both, which is used or is made available for the landing and take off of aircraft, which may or may not provide facilities for the shelter, supply, and repair of aircraft, and which, as to size, design, surface, marking, equipment, and management meets the minimum requirements established from time to time by the director.
- 9 (14) "Military aircraft" means public aircraft operated in the service of the United States 10 army, air force, national guard, navy, marine corps or coast guard.
 - (15) "Operate" means, with respect to aircraft, to use, cause to use or authorize to use an aircraft, for the purpose of engine start, movement on the ground (taxi), or air navigation including the piloting of aircraft, with or without the right of legal control (as owner, lessee, or otherwise).
- 15 (16) "Operator" means a person who operates or is in actual physical control of an aircraft.
 - (17) "Owner" means the legal title holder or any person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation having the lawful possession or control of an aircraft under a written sale agreement.
 - (18) "Person" means any individual, or any corporation or other association of individuals.
 - (19) "Political subdivision" means any city or town or any other public corporation, authority, or district, or any combination of two (2) or more, which is or may be authorized by law to acquire, establish, construct, maintain, improve, and operate airports.
- 25 (20) "Public aircraft" means an aircraft used exclusively in the governmental service.
- 26 (21) "Assistant director" means the assistant director for airports established under 27 section 1-2-21.
 - 1-4-3.1. Notification and reporting of aircraft accidents. -- The operator of an aircraft involved in an accident or incident as defined in Part 830 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, referred to as 49 CFR 830, shall immediately notify the chief aeronautics inspector director. This notification shall be in addition to any duty to notify and provide a report to the National Transportation Safety Board under 49 CFR 830. Furthermore, the operator shall file with the chief aeronautics inspector a copy of any report filed with the National Transportation Safety Board, which shall be a public record.

<u>1-4-6. State registration of federal certificates.</u> -- (a) All owners and operators, or owners or operators, of all aircraft, and dealers in aircraft, shall register the federal certificates of their aircraft and dealer registration as the <u>assistant</u> director may by regulation prescribe. Nonresidents may operate noncommercially within this state as an owner and operator, or owner or operator, or as a dealer, without that registration for not more than ten (10) consecutive days in any calendar year. To operate commercially intrastate, nonresidents shall register.

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- (b) Subject to the limitations of subsections (d) and (f), every person who operates an aircraft shall register the federal aircraft certificate of that aircraft with the chief aeronautics inspector assistant director during each period in which the aircraft is operated within this state in accordance with subsection (a). The annual fee for each registration, and for each registration renewal, is as follows: Aircraft weighing less than two thousand (2,000) pounds, thirty dollars (\$30.00); two thousand and one (2,001) to three thousand (3,000) pounds, sixty dollars (\$60.00); three thousand and one (3,001) to four thousand five hundred (4,500) pounds, one hundred ten dollars (\$110); four thousand five hundred and one (4,501) to twelve thousand five hundred (12,500) pounds, one hundred sixty dollars (\$160); over twelve thousand five hundred pounds (12,500), two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). For the purpose of the annual fee, the weight considered will be the gross weight as published by the manufacturer. Every person who is a dealer in aircraft shall register his or her federal dealer's aircraft registration certificate with the chief aeronautics inspector assistant director. The annual fee for registration of each federal dealer's aircraft registration certificate is fifty dollars (\$50.00) and for each aircraft in the possession operated solely for the purpose of sale or demonstration is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Any person who engages in a business, a substantial portion of which consists of the manufacturing, selling, or exchanging of aircraft, and who does not have a federal dealer's certificate shall register all aircraft owned by the person and operated within the state with the chief aeronautics inspector assistant director and pay the annual fee for that aircraft provided for in this subsection and is not eligible to pay the limited fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for all aircraft operated solely for the purpose of sale or demonstration.
- (c) All fees are in lieu of all personal property taxes on aircraft authorized by any law or ordinance. Registration certificates issued after expiration of the first six (6) months of the annual registration period, as prescribed by the <u>assistant</u> director, are issued at the rate of fifty percent (50%) of the annual fee.
- (d) All fees are paid to the tax administrator of this state and delivery of the person's receipt to the ehief aeronautics inspector assistant director is a prerequisite to registration under this section.

1	(e) Possession of the appropriate effective federal ærtificate, permit, rating or license
2	relating to ownership and airworthiness of the aircraft, and the payment of the appropriate fee as
3	set forth in this section are the only requisites for registration of an aircraft, or a dealer in aircraft.
4	(f) Aircraft registration fees shall be reimbursed to persons who surrender their
5	certificates before the date of expiration in accordance with the following schedule:
6	(1) Before the first six (6) months of the period, fifty percent (50%) of the fee;
7	(2) Before the first nine (9) months of the period, twenty-five percent (25%).
8	(g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to:
9	(1) An aircraft owned by, and used exclusively in the service of, any government,
10	including the government of the United States or of any state of the United States, or political
11	subdivision thereof, which is not engaged in carrying persons or property for commercial
12	purposes;
13	(2) An aircraft registered under the laws of a foreign country;
14	(3) An aircraft owned by a nonresident and based in another state; or
15	(4) An aircraft engaged principally in federally certified scheduled airline operation.
16	<u>1-4-8. Duties of director</u> It shall be the duty of the director to foster aeronautics
17	within this state in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and for that purpose the director
18	shall:
19	(1) Encourage the establishment of airports and other air navigation facilities;
20	(2) Make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly as to necessary
21	legislation or action;
22	(3) Study the possibilities for the development of air commerce and the aeronautical
23	industry and trade within the state and collect and disseminate information relative to the
24	development; and
25	(4) Advise with the Federal Aviation Administration civil aeronautics authority and other
26	agencies of the federal government and with state authorities in carrying forward any research
27	and development work the tends to increase and improve aeronautics within this state.
28	1-4-9. Jurisdiction of director (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this
29	chapter, the director has supervision over aeronautics within the state, including:
30	(1) The establishment, location, maintenance, operation, and use of airports, landing
31	fields, air markings, air beacons, and other air navigation facilities; and
32	(2) The establishment, operation, management, and equipment, of all air schools, flying
33	clubs, and other persons giving air instruction.

(b) All proposed airports, landing fields, and other air navigation facilities, shall be first

approved by the director before they are used or operated. A political subdivision or person proposing to establish, alter, activate, or deactivate an airport or landing field shall make application to the chief aeronautics inspector chief aeronautics inspector, with a copy to the director, for a certificate of approval of the site selected and the general purpose or purposes for which the airport or landing field is to be established to insure that it shall conform to minimum standards or safety and shall serve public interest. A political subdivision or officer or employee, or any person shall not operate an airport, landing field, or other air navigation facility for which a certificate of approval has not been issued by the director.

(c) The director shall establish by rules and regulations, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 42, guidelines for making application for a certificate of approval, criteria for determining whether to issue a certificate of approval, and fees for processing the applications and each renewal of certificates of approval.

1-4-13. Reports of hearings and investigations as evidence — Testimony by director, deputy director, and aeronautics inspectors. Testimony by director and assistant director.

The reports of investigations or hearings, or any part of the reports, shall not be admitted in evidence or used for any purpose in any suit, action, or proceeding growing out of any matter referred to in those investigations or hearings, or in any report, except in the case of criminal or other proceedings instituted by or on behalf of the director under the provisions of this chapter; nor shall the director nor the deputy director, nor any aeronautics inspector, assistant director for airports be required to testify to any facts ascertained in or information gained by reason of his or her official capacity. Neither the director nor the deputy director, nor any aeronautics inspector for airports assistant director for airports, shall be required to testify as an expert witness in any suit, action, or proceeding involving any aircraft or any navigation facility.

1-4-14. Enforcement -- Cooperation of public agencies. -- (a) It is the duty of the director, deputy director, aeronautics inspectors, and every state and municipal officer charged with the enforcement of state laws to enforce and assist in the enforcement of this chapter. The director is further authorized in the name of the state to enforce the provisions of this chapter by appropriate proceedings in the superior courts of this state. Other departments and political subdivisions of this state are authorized to cooperate with the director in the development of aeronautics within this state.

(b) The <u>assistant</u> director, <u>deputy director</u>, <u>aeronautics inspectors</u>, and selected employees of the <u>Rhode Island airport corporation division of airports</u> to whom such powers may be delegated in the discharge of the duties of their office, have, in any part of the state, the same authority to make arrests for violation of the statutes, laws, rules, and regulations relating to

- aviation and airport security matters, and to enforce those statutes, laws, rules, and regulations, as regular constituted law enforcement officers in the state.
- 3 (c) The <u>assistant</u> director shall issue to each selected employee credentials showing his or
- 4 her authority to arrest, which credentials shall be carried upon the person of the designated
- 5 employee while in the performance of his or her duties.
- 6 1-4-15. Reasons for orders -- Closing of facilities -- Inspection powers. -- In any case 7 where the director, pursuant to this chapter, issues any order requiring or prohibiting certain 8 things to be done, the director shall set forth his or her reasons for the order and state the 9 requirements to be met before approval is given or the rule, regulation, or order shall be modified 10 or changed. In any case where the director deems the action necessary or proper, the director may 11 order the closing of any airport or landing field, or the cessation of operations of any air school, 12 flying club, air beacon, or other air navigation facility, until the requirements laid down by the 13 director have been fulfilled. To carry out the provisions of this chapter, the director, deputy 14 director, aeronautics inspectors and any officers, state or municipal, charged with the duty of 15 enforcing this chapter, may inspect and examine, at reasonable hours, any premises, the aircraft 16 and the buildings and other structures, where those airports, landing fields, air schools, flying

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

clubs, air beacons, or other air navigation facilities are operated.

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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO AERONAUTICS -- AIRPORTS AND LANDING FIELDS

This act would transfer he control of airports from the airport corporation to the department of transportation.

This act would take effect upon passage.

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