

Senate Bill 131

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Beach of the 21st, Mullis of the 53rd, Harper of the 7th,
Brass of the 28th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Title 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to aviation, so as to
2 create the Georgia Major Airport Authority; to provide for a short title; to provide for
3 legislative findings and declarations; to provide for definitions; to provide for appointment
4 of members, terms, and filling of vacancies; to provide for officers, quorum, reimbursement
5 for expenses, and compensation of employees; to provide for members accountable as
6 trustees, conflicts of interest, and books and records; to provide for general powers; to
7 provide for requirements for the issuance of revenue bonds or other obligations; to provide
8 for tax exemption; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 15 of Title 45 of the Official Code of
9 Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to the Attorney General, so as to
10 provide for representation of the Georgia Major Airport Authority by the Attorney General;
11 to provide for related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date; to repeal conflicting
12 laws; and for other purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

14 **SECTION 1.**

15 Title 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to aviation, is amended by adding
16 a new chapter to read as follows:

17 "CHAPTER 6

18 6-6-1.

19 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the 'Georgia Major Airport Authority Act.'

20 6-6-2.

21 The General Assembly finds and declares that the construction, equipment, improvement,
22 maintenance, and operation of major airports significantly affect the public welfare of the
23 state. The General Assembly further finds and declares that, for reasons of safety, security,
24 economy, and efficiency, the public welfare of this state is best served by having an

25 authority over such activities for major airports for such purposes as provided by this
26 chapter.

27 6-6-3.

28 As used in this chapter, the term:

29 (1) 'Authority' means the Georgia Major Airport Authority created by Code Section
30 6-6-4.

31 (2) 'Cost of any project' means the cost of acquisition and construction, the cost of all
32 lands, properties, rights, easements, and franchises acquired; the cost of all machinery and
33 equipment, financing charges, interest prior to and during construction or installation and
34 for up to three years after completion of construction or installation; cost of engineering,
35 architectural, and legal expenses and of plans and specifications and other expenses
36 necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of the project;
37 administrative expense; the costs of establishing and maintaining any necessary funds and
38 reserve funds with respect to the financing or operation of any project, and such other
39 expenses as may be necessary or incident to the financing herein authorized, including
40 the fees and costs of trustees, paying agents, remarketing agents, and other fiscal agents;
41 costs of bond insurance, letter of credit fees, reimbursement agreement fees, and other
42 loan, credit enhancement, or guarantee fees; and, to the completion of construction or
43 installation of any project, the placing of the same in operation, and the condemnation of
44 property necessary for such construction, installation, and operation.

45 (3) 'Major airport' includes any airport or landing field that is located in this state and
46 used for public commercial aviation which conducts more than 400,000 takeoffs and
47 landing in any calendar year.

48 (4) 'Project' means the construction, maintenance, operation, improvement, expansion,
49 or lease of any major airports in this state or any appurtenance thereto or the subsequent
50 renovation or rehabilitation of any such facility. A project may also include any fixtures,
51 machinery, or equipment used on or in connection with any major airport facilities.

52 (5) 'Revenue bonds' and 'bonds' means any bonds of the authority which are authorized
53 to be issued under the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, including refunding
54 bonds, but not including notes or other obligations of an authority.

55 6-6-4.

56 (a) There is created a body corporate and politic to be known as the Georgia Major Airport
57 Authority which shall be deemed to be an instrumentality of the state and a public
58 corporation, and by that name, style, and title the body may contract and be contracted
59 with, implead and be impleaded, and bring and defend actions in all courts.

- 60 (b)(1) The authority shall consist of:
- 61 (A) The Governor or his or her designee;
- 62 (B) The Lieutenant Governor or his or her designee;
- 63 (C) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his or her designee;
- 64 (D) The commissioner of transportation or his or her designee;
- 65 (E) The commissioner of public safety or his or her designee;
- 66 (F) The commissioner of economic development or his or her designee;
- 67 (G) Two persons to be appointed by the Governor;
- 68 (H) Two persons to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and
- 69 (I) Two persons to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 70 (J) Two persons to be appointed by the governing body of the county in which the
- 71 majority of the airport is located.
- 72 (2) Each person appointed by the Governor shall be confirmed by the Senate, and any
- 73 such appointment made when the Senate is not in session shall be effective until the
- 74 appointment is acted upon by the Senate.
- 75 (3) The initial members of such authority shall take office on January 1, 2021. One
- 76 member appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor,
- 77 and one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve
- 78 initial terms of office beginning January 1, 2021, and extending until December 31, 2024,
- 79 and until their successors are appointed and qualified. One member appointed by the
- 80 Governor, one member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and one member
- 81 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve initial terms of
- 82 office beginning January 1, 2021, and extending until December 31, 2027, and until their
- 83 successors are appointed and qualified. The appointing officer shall specify the terms of
- 84 each appointee when making such initial appointments. After the initial terms of office,
- 85 members shall serve six-year terms beginning on January 1 immediately following the
- 86 expiration of the previous term of office and until their successors are appointed and
- 87 qualified. Members shall be eligible for reappointment. Any vacancy shall be filled by
- 88 the officer who appointed the member whose seat was vacated and the person so
- 89 appointed shall serve the unexpired term of the member whose vacancy is being filled.
- 90 (c) The chairperson of the authority shall be a member of the authority elected for a
- 91 two-year term by a majority vote of the members of the authority. A chairperson may not
- 92 serve more than two consecutive terms as chairperson.
- 93 (d) A majority of the members of the authority shall constitute a quorum necessary for the
- 94 transaction of business, and a majority vote of those present at any meeting at which there
- 95 is a quorum shall be sufficient to do and perform any action permitted to the authority by
- 96 this chapter. The chairperson shall vote only in the event of a tie. No vacancy on the

97 authority shall impair the right of the quorum to transact any and all business authorized
98 pursuant to this chapter.

99 (e) The authority shall make rules and regulations for its own governance. It shall have
100 perpetual existence.

101 (f) The members of the authority shall receive no compensation for their services but all
102 members shall be entitled to the expense allowance and transportation cost for travel
103 reimbursement provided for members of certain boards and commissions pursuant to Code
104 Section 45-7-21.

105 (g) The Attorney General shall provide legal services for the authority. In connection
106 therewith, Code Sections 45-15-13 through 45-15-16 shall be fully applicable.

107 (h) The authority is assigned to the Department of Administrative Services for
108 administrative purposes only as prescribed in Code Section 50-4-3.

109 (i) The authority may in its discretion employ an executive director and other personnel.
110 Employees of the authority shall receive reasonable compensation for their services, the
111 amount to be determined by the members of the authority. The authority may also by
112 agreement with any department or agency of state government make use of personnel of
113 such department or agency.

114 (j) The authority shall be subject to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative
115 Procedure Act.'

116 6-6-5.

117 (a) The members of the authority shall be accountable in all respects as trustees.

118 (b) Every member of the General Assembly, the authority, and every employee of the
119 authority who knowingly has any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract to which the
120 authority is or is about to become a party, or in any other business of the authority, or in
121 any firm or corporation doing business with the authority, shall make full disclosure of
122 such interest to the authority. Failure to disclose such an interest shall constitute cause for
123 which an authority member may be removed or an employee discharged or otherwise
124 disciplined at the discretion of the authority.

125 (c) Provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 10 of Title 16 and Code Sections 16-10-21 and
126 16-10-22, regulating the conduct of officers, employees, and agents of political
127 subdivisions, municipal and other public corporations, and other public organizations, shall
128 be applicable to the conduct of members, officers, employees, and agents of the authority.

129 (d) Any contract or transaction of the authority involving a conflict of interest not
130 disclosed under subsection (b) of this Code section, or involving a violation of Article 1 of
131 Chapter 10 of Title 16 and Code Sections 16-10-21 and 16-10-22, or involving a violation

132 of any other provision of law regulating conflicts of interest which is applicable to the
133 authority or its members, officers, employees, or agents shall be voidable by the authority.
134 (e) The authority shall keep suitable and proper books and records of all receipts, income,
135 and expenditures of every kind and shall submit to the state auditor for inspection all of
136 such books and records, together with a proper statement of the authority's financial
137 position, on or about December 31 of each year.

138 6-6-6.

139 The authority shall have all of the powers necessary, proper, or convenient to carry out and
140 effectuate the purposes and provisions of this chapter. The powers enumerated in this Code
141 section are cumulative of and in addition to each other and other powers granted elsewhere
142 in this chapter and no such powers limit or restrict any other power of the authority.
143 Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the powers of the authority shall include
144 the powers:

145 (1) To bring and defend actions;

146 (2) To adopt and amend a corporate seal;

147 (3) To make and execute contracts, agreements, and other instruments necessary, proper,
148 or convenient to exercise the powers of the authority and to further the public purpose for
149 which the authority is created and which comply with applicable federal laws, rules, and
150 regulations, including, but not limited to, contracts for construction of projects, leases of
151 projects, operation of projects, sale of projects, agreements for loans to finance projects,
152 and contracts with respect to the use of projects, including negotiated contracts with air
153 carriers for the use of projects;

154 (4) In connection with any project and subject to prior approval from the federal
155 government, to acquire by purchase, lease, condemnation, or otherwise and to hold, lease,
156 and dispose of real and personal property of every kind and character or any interest
157 therein in furtherance of its corporate purposes;

158 (5) In connection with any project, to acquire in its own name by purchase, on such
159 terms and conditions and in such manner as it may deem proper or by condemnation in
160 accordance with any and all existing laws applicable to the condemnation of property for
161 public use, real property or rights or easements therein or franchises necessary, proper,
162 or convenient for its corporate purposes; and to use the same so long as its corporate
163 existence shall continue and to lease or make contracts with respect to the use of or to
164 dispose of the same in any manner it deems to the best advantage of the authority, the
165 authority being under no obligation to accept and pay for any property condemned under
166 this chapter except from the funds provided under the authority of this chapter; and, in
167 any proceedings to condemn, such order may be made by the court having jurisdiction

168 of the action or proceedings as may be just to the authority and to the owners of the
169 property to be condemned; and no property shall be acquired under this chapter upon
170 which any lien or other encumbrance exists unless at the time such property is so
171 acquired, a sufficient sum of money be deposited in trust to pay and redeem such lien or
172 encumbrance in full;

173 (6) To adopt regulations and fix, alter, charge, negotiate, and collect fares, rates, fees,
174 tolls, and other charges for the use of such projects; provided, however, that such charges
175 and uses are permissible under and are in compliance with applicable federal laws, rules,
176 and regulations; fix penalties for the violation of adopted regulations; and establish liens
177 to enforce payment of said charges, fees, and tolls, subject to existing contracts, leases,
178 and conveyances and in compliance with applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations;
179 to make such contracts, leases, or conveyances as the legitimate and necessary purposes
180 of this chapter shall require, including, but not limited to, contracts with private parties
181 for the operation or lease or assignment to private parties for operation, space, area,
182 improvements, and equipment on such projects, provided in each case that in so doing no
183 federal law, rule, or regulation is violated and the public is not deprived of its rightful,
184 equal, and uniform use thereof;

185 (7) To finance, by loan, grant, lease, or otherwise, and to construct, erect, assemble,
186 purchase, acquire, own, repair, remodel, renovate, rehabilitate, modify, maintain, extend,
187 improve, install, sell, equip, expand, add to, operate, or manage projects and to pay the
188 cost of any project from the proceeds of revenue bonds or other obligations of the
189 authority or any other funds of the authority or from any contributions or loans by
190 persons; corporations; partnerships, limited or general; or other entities, all of which the
191 authority is empowered to receive, accept, and use provided that such use is in
192 compliance with applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations;

193 (8) To borrow money to further or to carry out its public purpose and to execute revenue
194 bonds, other obligations, leases, trust indentures, trust agreements, agreements for the sale
195 of its revenue bonds or other obligations, loan agreements, mortgages, deeds to secure
196 debt, trust deeds, security agreements, assignments, and such other agreements or
197 instruments as may be necessary or desirable, in the judgment of the authority, to
198 evidence and to provide security for such borrowing;

199 (9) To accept loans and grants, either or both, of money, materials, or property of any
200 kind from the United States government or the State of Georgia or any political
201 subdivision, authority, agency, or instrumentality of either, upon such terms and
202 conditions as the United States government or the State of Georgia or such political
203 subdivision, authority, agency, or instrumentality of either shall impose;

204 (10) To hold, use, administer, and expend such sum or sums as may hereafter be received
205 as income or gifts or as may be appropriated by authority of the General Assembly for
206 any of the purposes of the authority and within parameters set forth by federal laws, rules,
207 or regulations;

208 (11) To issue revenue bonds or other obligations of the authority and use the proceeds
209 thereof for the purpose of paying or loaning the proceeds thereof to pay all or any part of
210 the cost of any project and otherwise to further or carry out the public purpose of the
211 authority and to pay all costs of the authority incident to, or necessary and appropriate to,
212 furthering or carrying out such purpose;

213 (12) To make application directly or indirectly to any federal, state, county, or municipal
214 government or agency or to any other source, public or private, for loans, grants,
215 guarantees, or other financial assistance in furtherance of the authority's public purpose
216 and to accept and use the same upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed by such
217 federal, state, county, or municipal government or agency or other source;

218 (13) To enter into agreements with the federal government or any agency or corporation
219 thereof to use the facilities of the federal government or agency or corporation thereof in
220 order to further or carry out the public purpose of the authority;

221 (14) As security for repayment of any revenue bonds or other obligations of the
222 authority, to pledge, mortgage, convey, assign, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber any
223 property of the authority, including, but not limited to, real property, fixtures, personal
224 property, and revenues or other funds; and to execute any lease, trust indenture, trust
225 agreement, agreement for the sale of the authority's revenue bonds or other obligations,
226 loan agreement, mortgage, deed to secure debt, trust deed, security agreement,
227 assignment, or other agreement or instrument as may be necessary or desirable in the
228 judgment of the authority and in compliance with federal laws, rules, or regulations to
229 secure any such revenue bonds or other obligations, which agreements or instruments
230 may provide for foreclosure or forced sale of any property of the authority upon default
231 in any obligation of the authority, either in payment of principal, premium, if any, or
232 interest or in the performance of any term or condition contained in any such agreement
233 or instrument. The State of Georgia on behalf of itself and each county, municipal
234 corporation, political subdivision, or taxing district therein waives any right the state or
235 such county, municipal corporation, political subdivision, or taxing jurisdiction may have
236 to prevent the forced sale or foreclosure of any property of the authority upon such
237 default and agrees that any agreement or instrument encumbering such property may be
238 foreclosed in accordance with law and terms thereof;

239 (15) To receive and use the proceeds of any tax levied by the State of Georgia or any
240 county or municipality thereof to pay the costs of any project or for any other purpose for

241 which the authority may use its own funds pursuant to this chapter, provided that such use
 242 complies with applicable federal laws, rules, and regulations;

243 (16) To receive and administer gifts, grants, and devises of money and property of any
 244 kind and to administer trusts;

245 (17) To use any real property, personal property, or fixtures or any interest therein; to
 246 rent or lease such property to or from others or make contracts with respect to the use
 247 thereof; or to sell, lease, exchange, transfer, assign, pledge, or otherwise dispose of or
 248 grant options for any such property in any manner allowable under federal laws, rules,
 249 and regulations and as it deems to be to the best advantage of the authority and the public
 250 purpose thereof;

251 (18) To appoint, select, and employ officers, employees and agents, including engineers,
 252 surveyors, architects, urban or city planners, construction experts, fiscal agents, attorneys,
 253 and others and to fix the compensation and pay the expenses of such officers, employees,
 254 and agents;

255 (19) To exercise any power granted by laws of the State of Georgia to public or private
 256 corporations which is not in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the State of
 257 Georgia; and

258 (20) To do all things necessary, proper, or convenient to carry out the powers conferred
 259 by this chapter, including the adoption of rules and regulations.

260 6-6-7.

261 Revenue bonds or other obligations issued by the authority shall be paid solely from the
 262 property, including, but not limited to, real property, fixtures, personal property, revenues,
 263 or other funds pledged, mortgaged, conveyed, assigned, hypothecated, or otherwise
 264 encumbered to secure or to pay such bonds or other obligations. All revenue bonds and
 265 other obligations shall be authorized by resolution of the authority, adopted by a majority
 266 vote of the members of the authority at a regular or special meeting. Such revenue bonds
 267 or other obligations shall bear such date or dates of such regular or special meeting or
 268 meetings; shall mature at such time or times not more than 40 years from their respective
 269 dates; shall bear interest at such rate or rates, which may be fixed or may fluctuate or
 270 otherwise change from time to time; shall be subject to redemption on such terms; and shall
 271 contain such other terms, provisions, covenants, assignments, and conditions as the
 272 resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or other obligations may permit or
 273 provide. The terms, provisions, covenants, assignments, and conditions contained in or
 274 provided or permitted by any resolution of the authority authorizing the issuance of such
 275 revenue bonds or other obligations shall bind the members of the authority then in office
 276 and their successors. The authority shall have the power from time to time, and whenever

277 it deems refunding expedient, to refund any bonds by the issuance of new bonds, whether
278 the bonds to be refunded have or have not matured, and may issue partly to refund bonds
279 then outstanding and partly for any other purpose permitted under this chapter. The
280 refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds to be refunded with such cash
281 adjustments as may be agreed upon or may be sold and the proceeds applied to the
282 purchase or redemption of the bonds to be refunded. There shall be no limitation upon the
283 amount of revenue bonds or other obligations which the authority may issue. Any
284 limitations with respect to interest rates or any maximum interest rate or rates found in the
285 usury laws of the State of Georgia, or any other laws of the State of Georgia, shall not
286 apply to revenue bonds or other obligations of the authority.

287 6-6-8.

288 (a) Subject to the limitations and procedures provided by this Code section, the agreements
289 or instruments executed by the authority may contain such provisions not inconsistent with
290 law as shall be determined by the members of the authority.

291 (b) The proceeds derived from the sale of all bonds and other obligations issued by the
292 authority shall be held and used for the ultimate purpose of paying, directly or indirectly
293 as permitted in this chapter, all or part of the cost of any project or for the purpose of
294 refunding any bonds or other obligations issued in accordance with the provisions of this
295 chapter.

296 (c) Issuance by the authority of one or more series of bonds or other obligations for one
297 or more purposes shall not preclude it from issuing other bonds or other obligations in
298 connection with the same project or with any other projects, but the proceeding wherein
299 any subsequent bonds or other obligations shall be issued shall recognize and protect any
300 prior loan agreement, mortgage, deed to secure debt, trust deed, security agreement, or
301 other agreement or instrument made for any prior issue of bonds or other obligations unless
302 in the resolution authorizing such prior issue the right is expressly reserved to the authority
303 to issue subsequent bonds or other obligations on a parity with such prior issue.

304 (d) All bonds issued by the authority under this chapter shall be issued and validated under
305 and in accordance with Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36, the 'Revenue Bond Law,' as
306 heretofore and hereafter amended.

307 (e) The authority shall determine the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to
308 be attached thereto, and shall fix the denomination or denominations of the bonds and the
309 place or places of payment of principal and interest thereof, which may be at any bank or
310 trust company within or outside this state. The bonds may be issued in coupon or registered
311 form or both, as the authority may determine, and provision may be made for the

312 registration of any coupon bond as to principal alone and also as to both principal and
313 interest.

314 (f) All bonds shall be signed by the chairperson of the authority, and the official seal of the
315 authority shall be affixed thereto and attested by the secretary of the authority, and any
316 coupons attached thereto shall bear the signature or facsimile signature of the chairperson
317 of the authority. Any coupon may bear the facsimile signature of such person and any bond
318 may be signed, sealed, and attested on behalf of the authority by any person duly
319 authorized to hold the proper office at the actual time of the execution of such bonds even
320 if at the date of such bonds, such person may no longer be authorized or shall not hold such
321 proper office. In case any chairperson whose signature shall appear on any bonds or whose
322 facsimile signature shall appear on any coupon shall cease to be such chairperson before
323 the delivery of such bonds, such signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all
324 purposes the same as if such chairperson had remained in office until such delivery.

325 (g) In lieu of specifying the rate or rates of interest which bonds to be issued by the
326 authority are to bear, the notice to the district attorney or the Attorney General, the notice
327 to the public of the time, place, and date of the validation hearing, and the petition and
328 complaint for validation may state that the bonds, when issued, shall bear interest at a rate
329 not exceeding a maximum per annum rate of interest, which may be fixed or may fluctuate
330 or otherwise change from time to time, specified in such notices and petition and complaint
331 or that, in the event the bonds are to bear different rates of interest for different maturity
332 dates, that none of such rates will exceed the maximum rate which may be fixed or may
333 fluctuate or otherwise change from time to time so specified; provided, however, that
334 nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting or restricting the right
335 of the authority to sell such bonds at a discount, even if in so doing the effective interest
336 cost resulting therefrom would exceed the maximum per annum interest rates specified in
337 such notices and in the petition and complaint.

338 (h) The authority may also provide for the replacement of any bond which becomes
339 mutilated or which is destroyed or lost.

340 (i) The issuance of any revenue bond or other obligation or the incurring of any debt by
341 the authority must, prior to such occurrence, be approved by the Georgia State Financing
342 and Investment Commission established by Article VII, Section IV, Paragraph VII of the
343 Constitution of the State of Georgia of 1983 or its successor.

344 6-6-9.

345 The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to effect its stated purpose. The
346 offer, sale, or issuance of bonds or other obligations by the authority shall not be subject
347 to regulation under the laws of the State of Georgia regulating the sale of securities, as

348 heretofore and hereafter amended. No notice, proceeding, or publication except those
349 required by this chapter shall be necessary to the performance of any act authorized by this
350 chapter nor shall any such act be subject to referendum.

351 6-6-10.

352 No bonds or other obligations of and no indebtedness incurred by the authority shall
353 constitute an indebtedness or obligation of the State of Georgia or any county, municipal
354 corporation, or political subdivision thereof, nor shall any act of the authority in any
355 manner constitute or result in the creation of an indebtedness of the state or any such
356 county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision. No holder or holders of any such
357 bonds or other obligations shall ever have the right to compel any exercise of the taxing
358 power of the state or any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision thereof,
359 nor to enforce the payment thereof against the state or any such county, municipal
360 corporation, or political subdivision. All such bonds shall contain recitals on their face
361 covering substantially the foregoing provisions of this Code section.

362 6-6-11.

363 It is found, determined, and declared that the creation of the Georgia Major Airport
364 Authority and the carrying out of its corporate purposes are in all respects for the benefit
365 of the people of this state and constitute a public purpose and that the authority will be
366 performing an essential governmental function in the exercise of the power conferred upon
367 it by this chapter. The authority shall be required to pay no taxes or assessments upon any
368 of the property acquired by it or under its jurisdiction, control, possession, or supervision
369 or upon its activities in the operation or maintenance of the facilities erected, maintained,
370 or acquired by it nor upon any fees, rentals, or other charges for the use of such facilities
371 or other income received by the authority. The state covenants with the holders from time
372 to time of the bonds and other obligations issued under this chapter that the authority shall
373 not be required to pay any taxes or assessments imposed by the state or any of its counties,
374 municipal corporations, political subdivisions, or taxing districts on any property acquired
375 by the authority or under its jurisdiction, control, possession, or supervision or leased by
376 it to others or upon its activities in the operation or maintenance of any such property or
377 on any income derived by the authority in the form of fees, recording fees, rentals, charges,
378 purchase price, installments, or otherwise, and that the bonds, notes, and other obligations
379 of the authority, their transfer, and the income therefrom shall at all times be exempt from
380 taxation within the state.

381 6-6-12.

382 The authority is empowered to exercise such of the police powers of the state as may be
 383 necessary to maintain peace and order and to enforce any and all restrictions upon its
 384 properties and facilities, to the extent that such is lawful under the laws of the United States
 385 and this state; however, the authority may delegate the exercise of this function for a time
 386 or permanently to the state or to the county or municipality in which its projects are
 387 located.

388 6-6-13.

389 (a) This chapter shall not affect any other authority now or hereafter existing under general
 390 or local constitutional amendment or general or local law.

391 (b) The authority is authorized and shall have all powers necessary to participate in federal
 392 programs and to comply with laws relating thereto. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent
 393 the authority from taking any action in order to comply with federal laws, rules, and
 394 regulations.

395 6-6-14.

396 Any action to protect or enforce any rights under this chapter and any action pertaining to
 397 validation of any bonds issued under this chapter brought in the courts of this state shall be
 398 brought in the Superior Court of Fulton County, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction of
 399 such actions."

400 6-6-21.

401 The authority may, should it be in the best interest of the authority, contract with the
 402 county in which the majority of the airport is located for the provision of any necessary
 403 governmental services, i.e., police, fire, permitting and inspections.

404 **SECTION 2.**

405 Article 1 of Chapter 15 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 406 general provisions relative to the Attorney General, is amended by revising Code Section
 407 45-15-13, relating to representation of state authorities by Attorney General, as follows:

408 "45-15-13.

409 As used in Code Sections 45-15-14 through 45-15-16, the term 'state authorities' means the
 410 following instrumentalities of the state: Georgia Building Authority, Georgia Education
 411 Authority (Schools), Georgia Education Authority (University), Georgia Highway
 412 Authority, Georgia Ports Authority, State Road and Tollway Authority, Jekyll

413 Island—State Park Authority, Stone Mountain Memorial Association, Georgia Major
414 Airport Authority, and Georgia Emergency Communications Authority.”

415 **SECTION 3.**

416 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2020, unless a Joint Governance Plan is entered
417 into by the City of Atlanta and the General Assembly. If such Joint Governance Plan is
418 entered into prior to July 1, 2020, this Act shall not become effective and shall stand repealed
419 on July 1, 2020.

420 **SECTION 4.**

421 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.