

House Bill 1434

By: Representatives Jenkins of the 136<sup>th</sup>, Crowe of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Jasperse of the 11<sup>th</sup>, and McDonald III of the 26<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to powers  
2 of local governments as to air facilities, so as to provide for the identification of airport  
3 affected areas; to provide for public notice and public hearing; to require the adoption,  
4 administration, and enforcement of regulations relative to the use of land in airport affected  
5 areas; to provide for standards for adoption of such regulations; to provide for consultation  
6 with the Department of Transportation; to provide for the adoption of local methods of  
7 enforcing regulations relative to airport area affected areas; to provide for a method for  
8 requesting variances; to provide for penalties; to provide for definitions; to provide for  
9 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 3 of Title 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to powers of local  
13 governments as to air facilities, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

14 "ARTICLE 3

15 6-3-40.

16 As used in this article, the term:

17 (1) 'Airport' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 32-9-8.

18 (2) 'Airport affected area' means any area of air, land, or water lying beneath a civil  
19 airport imaginary surface.

20 (3) 'Airport affected governing body' means the governing authority of a county,  
21 municipality, or other political subdivision that has an airport affected area within its  
22 territorial limits.

23 (4) 'Airport hazard' means any building, structure, or object of natural growth within an  
24 airport affected area that penetrates a civil airport imaginary surface.

25 (5) 'Airport sponsor' means an airport affected governing body that:

26 (A) Owns or controls an airport; or

27 (B) Has acquired, leased, or set apart real property for the purpose or purposes  
28 provided for in Code Section 6-3-20.

29 (6) 'Civil airport imaginary surface' shall have the same meaning as set forth in 14 C.F.R.  
30 Part 77 of the Code of Federal Regulations in effect on January 1, 2026.

31 6-3-41.

32 (a) No later than January 1, 2027, every airport sponsor in this state shall identify the  
33 airport affected area for its airport and notify any airport affected governing body that an  
34 airport affected area is located within its territorial limits.

35 (b) No later than July 1, 2027, and after public notice and public hearing, each airport  
36 affected governing body shall adopt, administer, and enforce regulations for the airport  
37 affected area within its territorial limits that comply with Code Section 6-3-42.

38 6-3-42.

39 (a) Any regulation adopted for an airport affected area pursuant to this article shall be  
40 reasonable and designed to promote public health, safety, and general welfare. At a  
41 minimum, such regulation shall include, but shall not be limited to, provisions for the  
42 limitation of the height of buildings, structures, and objects of natural growth located  
43 within the airport affected area for the purpose of keeping civil airport imaginary surfaces  
44 clear of airport hazards.

45 (b) In adopting, amending, and repealing any airport affected area regulations pursuant to  
46 this article, an airport affected governing body may request assistance from the Department  
47 of Transportation.

48 (c) To facilitate the clearance of the civil airport imaginary surfaces, any airport affected  
49 area regulations adopted pursuant to this article shall meet those federal standards set forth  
50 in 14 C.F.R. Part 77 of the Code of Federal Regulations in effect on January 1, 2026.

51 (d) Airport affected area regulations adopted pursuant to this article may be amended from  
52 time to time in the same manner as provided for the adoption of the original regulation.

53 6-3-43.

54 When a local governing authority has adopted a zoning ordinance or resolution relating to  
55 land use of property within an airport affected area, any airport affected area regulations  
56 adopted pursuant to this article may be made part of such zoning ordinance or resolution  
57 and may be administered and enforced in connection with such ordinance or resolution.

58 6-3-44.

59 (a) Each airport affected governing body shall provide for the enforcement of airport  
60 affected area regulations adopted pursuant to this article. Such enforcement may be by a  
61 system of permits or other comparable method; provided, however, that, prior to granting  
62 any variance from a regulation that would result in the use of property that would create

63 an airport hazard, the applicable airport affected governing body shall notify an airport  
64 sponsor of the requested variance and such airport sponsor shall be responsible for  
65 determining whether the requested variance would result in a violation of regulations for  
66 civil airport imaginary surfaces and requesting a variance from such regulations.

67 (b) When any airport affected governing body fails to enact or enforce airport affected area  
68 regulations adopted pursuant to this article, such governing body shall be disqualified from  
69 eligibility for funds through the local maintenance and improvement grant program  
70 available under Code Section 32-5-27."

71 **SECTION 2.**

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