WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 434

By Senators Nelson, Jeffries, Takubo, Swope, and Lindsay

[Originating in the Committee on Government

Organization; reported on February 28, 2022]

A BILL to amend and reenact §8-28-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §8-29-1, §8-29-3, §8-29-8, §8-29-9, §8-29-12, §8-29-17, and §8-29-20 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §8-29-8a; and to amend and reenact §8-29B-2, §8-29B-3, and §8-29B-5 of said code, relating generally to airport authorities and operations; increasing the criminal fine for vehicular and pedestrian traffic near airports; authorizing airport authorities to establish and operate international and ancillary airports; defining terms; clarifying that certain airports may be established near research or business parks; expanding the powers and authority of airport authorities related to acquisition and use of property; establishing a procedure for the disposition of derelict or abandoned aircraft; providing airport authorities with a lien on a derelict or abandoned aircraft; providing for sale and disposal of abandoned and derelict aircraft and purchaser's ownership rights; authorizing airport authorities to promulgate rules to control vehicular and pedestrian traffic; increasing criminal fines for violations of certain airport rules and regulations; providing airport authorities with the right of immediate entry following eminent domain; and expanding areas over which airport police have jurisdiction.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 28. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS — AIRPORTS AND AVIGATION.

PART II. CONTROL OF VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN

TRAFFIC NEAR AIRPORTS.

- §8-28-5. Rules and regulations to control vehicular and pedestrian traffic within quarter mile of airport; violation of rule and regulation a misdemeanor; penalty.
- (a) The governing body or county court is hereby empowered and authorized to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to:

- (1) Control the movement and disposition of vehicular and pedestrian traffic within 1/4 mile of any building or installation of any airport owned or operated or owned and operated by any such municipality or county court;
 - (2) Regulate and control vehicular parking within such areas by the installation of parking meters or by other methods; and
- (3) Impose reasonable charges for the use of the parking space so metered or otherwise allocated, so as to provide maximum opportunity for the public use thereof.
- (b) Violation of any such rule and regulation shall constitute a misdemeanor and, the offender, upon conviction in the manner provided by law, may be fined not less than \$2 \$10 nor more than \$10 \$30 for each such violation.
- (c) Justices of the peace Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts and with statutory courts of record having criminal jurisdiction for the trial of offenses under this section.

ARTICLE 29. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS — REGIONAL AIRPORTS.

§8-29-1. Regional Airport authorities authorized; definitions.

(a) Any two or more municipalities, any two or more contiguous counties, or any county or two or more contiguous counties and one or more municipalities located therein or partly therein, of this state, are hereby authorized to create and establish one or more authorities for the purpose of acquiring, establishing, constructing, equipping, improving, financing, maintaining, and operating a regional airport or international airport and ancillary airports, as the case may be, for the use of aircraft: *Provided*, That no such municipality or county shall participate in such authority unless and until the governing body or county court so provides.

As used in this article, the terms "airport" and "aircraft" shall have the meanings ascribed to them it in section one, article two-a, chapter twenty-nine of this code, the term "contiguous counties" means two or more counties which constitute a compact territorial unit within an unbroken boundary wherein one county touches at least one other county, but does not require

12	that each county touch all of the other counties so combining, and the term "authority" means a
13	regional airport authority created pursuant to the provisions of this article.
14	(b) As used in this article, the following terms have the following meanings:
15	(1) "Abandoned aircraft" means either:
16	(A) An aircraft left in a wrecked, inoperative, or partially dismantled condition on an airport
17	for 45 consecutive calendar days and without a contractual agreement in force between the owner
18	or operator of the aircraft and the airport authority for use of the airport premises; or
19	(B) An aircraft that has remained in an idle state on an airport for 45 consecutive calendar
20	days without a contractual agreement between the owner or operator of the aircraft and the airport
21	authority for use of the airport premises;
22	(2) "Aircraft" has the meaning provided in §29-2A-1 of this code;
23	(3) "Airport" means any airport, heliport, helistop, vertiport, gliderport, seaplane base,
24	ultralight flightpark, manned balloon launching facility, or other aircraft landing or takeoff area
25	operated by an airport operator as that term is defined in §8-29B-2(3);
26	(4) "Ancillary airport" means any airport, heliport, helistop, vertiport, gliderport, seaplane
27	base, ultralight flightpark, manned balloon launching facility, or other aircraft landing or takeoff
28	area that is owned and operated or operated by agreement by another authority as defined in §8-
29	29-1 of this code;
30	(5) "Authority" means a regional airport authority created pursuant to the provisions of this
31	article;
32	(6) "Contiguous counties" means two or more counties which constitute a compact
33	territorial unit within an unbroken boundary wherein one county touches at least one other county
34	but does not require that each county touch all of the other counties so combining; and
35	(7) "Derelict aircraft" means any aircraft that is not in a flyable condition, does not have a
36	current certificate of air worthiness issued by the federal aviation administration, and whose owner
37	cannot produce satisfactory written documentation from a licensed third-party aircraft mechanic

evidencing that they have been hired to actively and fully repair the aircraft to both an airworthy and properly registered condition within six calendar months from the date notice is given to the owner.

§8-29-3. Authorities empowered and authorized to acquire, operate, etc., airports and develop industrial parks; state aeronautics commission.

Each authority is hereby empowered and authorized to acquire, establish, construct, equip, improve, finance, maintain, and operate <u>an international airport</u>, a regional airport, <u>or other airport</u> or landing field and appurtenant facilities so located to best serve the region in which they are located, including, but not limited to, industrial, <u>research</u>, <u>and business</u> parks. Each authority shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the state aeronautics commission to the same extent as a state or municipal airport.

PART II. GENERAL POWERS OF AUTHORITIES.

§8-29-8. Powers of authorities generally.

- Each authority is hereby given plenary power and authority as follows:
- (1) To make and adopt all necessary bylaws and rules for its organization and operations not inconsistent with law;
- (2) To elect its own officers, to appoint committees and to employ and fix the compensation for personnel necessary for its operation;
- (3) To enter into contracts with any person, including both public and private corporations, or governmental department or agency, and generally to do any and all things necessary or convenient for the purpose of acquiring, establishing, constructing, equipping, improving, financing, maintaining, and operating a public airport to best serve the region in which it is located, including the development of an industrial, <u>research</u>, or <u>business</u> park in the same general area;
- (4) To delegate any authority given to it by law to any of its officers, committees, agents, or employees;

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13	(5) To apply for, receive, and use grants-in-aid, donations, and contributions from any
14	source or sources, including, but not limited to, the federal government and any department or
15	agency thereof, and this state subject to any Constitutional and statutory limitations with respect
16	thereto, and to accept and use bequests, devises, gifts, and donations from any person;
17	(6) To acquire lands and hold title thereto in its own name;
18	(6) To acquire, receive, take, and hold property, whether by purchase, gift, lease, devise,
19	or otherwise, and to use and manage said property, and to develop, improve, and maintain any
20	property owned, leased or controlled by it;
21	(7) To purchase, own, hold, sell, and dispose of personal property and to sell, lease, or
22	otherwise dispose of any real property which it may own;
23	(8) To borrow money and execute and deliver negotiable notes, mortgage bonds, other
24	bonds, debentures, and other evidences of indebtedness therefor, and give such security therefor
25	as shall be requisite, including giving a mortgage or deed of trust on its airport properties and
26	facilities or assigning or pledging the gross or net revenues therefrom;
27	(9) To raise funds by the issuance and sale of revenue bonds in the manner provided by
28	the applicable provisions of §8-16-1 et seq. of this code, it being hereby expressly provided that
29	for the purpose of the issuance and sale of revenue bonds, each authority is a "governing body"
30	as that term is used in said article only;
31	(10) To establish, charge, and collect reasonable fees and charges for services or for the
32	use of any part of its property or facilities, or for both services and such use;
33	(11) To expend its funds in the execution of the powers and authority herein given;
34	(12) To apply for, receive, and use loans, grants, donations, technical assistance, and
35	contributions from any regional or area commissions that may be established; and
36	(13) To prescribe by bylaw the manner of financial participation by members:

maintain, and repair buildings, structures, and facilities, including roadway access, suitable for

(14) To construct, acquire, establish, improve, extend, enlarge, reconstruct, equip,

use as manufacturing plants, industrial plants, and facilities; research parks and facilities;
business parks and facilities; retail shopping areas or centers; parks; exhibits; exhibitions; or the
conduct of any lawful business, heliport, or aircraft landing area owned or operated by such
authority, and to lease or let such buildings, structures, and facilities or any one or more of them
to such tenant or tenants for such term or terms, at such compensation or rental and subject to
such provisions, limitations, and conditions as the authority may require or approve; and

(15) To enter into a management agreement or agreements with any county, city, or town in the state for the management by the authority of an existing airport upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreeable.

(16) An authority may only exercise the powers delegated to it in this section in the county in which the airport is located or any county contiguous to the county in which the airport is located:

Provided, That nothing in this subsection shall prohibit an authority from entering into a management agreement for an existing airport with a county that is not contiguous to the county in which the existing airport is located or a city or town located in a county that is not contiguous to the county in which the airport is located.

§8-29B-8a. Abandoned or derelict aircraft.

- 1 (a) If an abandoned or derelict aircraft is discovered on an airport, the airport authority
 2 shall:
- 3 (1) Make a record of the date the aircraft was discovered on the airport; and
- 4 (2) Inquire as to the name and address of any person having an equitable or legal interest 5 in the aircraft, including the owner and any lien holders, by:
 - (A) Contacting the federal aviation administration, aircraft registration branch, and making a diligent search of the appropriate records; or
- 8 (B) Contacting an aircraft title search company.

9	(b) Within 10 business days of receiving the information requested pursuant to subsection
10	(a) of this section, the airport authority shall notify the owner and all other interested parties by
11	certified mail, return receipt requested:
12	(1) Of the location of the abandoned or derelict aircraft on the airport;
13	(2) That fees and charges for the use of the airport by the aircraft have accrued and the
14	amount of those fees and charges;
15	(3) That the aircraft is subject to a lien pursuant to this section for any unpaid and accrued
16	fees and charges for the use of the airport and for the transportation, storage, and removal of the
17	aircraft;
18	(4) That the lien is subject to enforcement pursuant to this section;
19	(5) That the airport may use, trade, sell, or remove the aircraft as described in §8-29-3 of
20	this code if, within 30 calendar days after the date of receipt of the notice, the owner or other
21	interested party has not removed the aircraft from the airport and paid in full all accrued fees and
22	charges for the use of the airport and for the transportation, storage, and removal of the aircraft;
23	<u>and</u>
24	(6) That the airport authority may remove the aircraft in less than 30 calendar days if the
25	aircraft poses a danger to the health or safety of users of the airport, as determined by the airport
26	authority.
27	(c) If, after the inquiry required by subdivision (2), subsection (a) of this section, the owner
28	of the aircraft is unknown or cannot be found, the airport authority shall place a notice upon the
29	aircraft in a conspicuous position containing the information required by subdivisions (2) through
30	(6) of subsection (b) of this section: Provided, That said notice shall be not less than eight inches
31	by 10 inches and shall be laminated or otherwise sufficiently weatherproof to withstand normal
32	exposure to rain, snow, and other conditions.
33	(d) If, after 30 calendar days of the owner or other interested party receiving the inquiry
34	required by subsection (b) of this section or after 30 calendar days of posting the notice on the

35	aircraft required by subsection (c) of this section, whichever occurs sooner, the owner or other
36	interested party has not removed the aircraft from the airport and paid in full all accrued fees and
37	charges for the use of the airport and for the transportation, storage, and removal of the aircraft,
38	or shown reasonable cause for the failure to do so, the airport authority may:
39	(1) Retain the aircraft for use by the airport, the state, or the unit of local government
40	owning or operating the airport;
41	(2) Trade the aircraft to another unit of local government or a state agency;
42	(3) Sell the property; or
43	(4) Dispose of the property through an appropriate refuse removal company or a company
44	that provides salvage services for aircraft.
45	(e) If the airport authority elects to sell the aircraft in accordance with subsection (d) of this
46	section, the aircraft shall be sold at public auction after giving notice of the time and place of sale,
47	at least 10 calendar days prior to the date of sale, in a newspaper of general circulation within the
48	county where the airport is located and after providing written notice of the intended sale to all
49	parties known to have an interest in the aircraft.
50	(f) If the airport authority elects to dispose of the aircraft in accordance with subdivision
51	(4), subsection (d) of this section, the airport authority may negotiate with the company for a price
52	to be received from the company in payment for the aircraft, or, if circumstances so warrant, a
53	price to be paid to the company by the airport authority for the costs of disposing of the aircraft.
54	All information and records pertaining to the establishment of the price and the justification for the
55	amount of the price shall be prepared and maintained by the airport authority.
56	(g) If the sale price or the negotiated price is less than the airport authority's then current
57	fees and charges against the aircraft, the owner of the aircraft shall remain liable to the airport
58	authority for the fees and charges that are not offset by the sale price or negotiated price.
59	(h) All costs incurred by the airport authority in the removal, storage, and sale of any
60	aircraft shall be recoverable against the owner of the aircraft.

61	(i) The airport authority shall have a lien on an abandoned or derelict aircraft for all unpaid
62	fees and charges for the use of the airport by the aircraft and for all unpaid costs incurred by the
63	airport authority for the transportation, storage, and removal of the aircraft. As a prerequisite to
64	perfecting a lien under this section, the airport authority shall serve a notice in accordance with
65	§8-29-2 of this code on the last registered owner and all persons having an equitable or legal
66	interest in the aircraft.
67	(j)(1) For the purpose of perfecting its lien under this section, the airport authority shall
68	record a claim of lien that states:
69	(A) The name and address of the airport;
70	(B) The name of the last registered owner of the aircraft and all persons having a legal or
71	equitable interest in the aircraft;
72	(C) The fees and charges incurred by the aircraft for the use of the airport and the costs
73	for the transportation, storage, and removal of the aircraft; and
74	(D) A description of the aircraft sufficient for identification.
75	(2) The claim of lien shall be signed and sworn to or affirmed by the airport authority's
76	director or the director's designee.
77	(3) The claim of lien shall be served on the last registered owner of the aircraft and all
78	persons having an equitable or legal interest in the aircraft. The claim of lien shall be so served
79	before recordation.
80	(4) The claim of lien shall be recorded with the register of the county where the airport is
81	located. The recording of the claim of lien shall be constructive notice to all persons of the contents
82	and effect of such claim. The lien shall attach at the at the time of recordation and shall take
83	priority as of that time.
84	(k)(1) If the aircraft is sold pursuant to this section, the airport authority shall satisfy the
85	airport authority's lien, plus the reasonable expenses of notice, advertisement, and sale, from the
86	proceeds of the sale.

87	(2) The balance of the proceeds of the sale, if any, shall be held by the airport authority,
88	and delivered on demand to the owner of the aircraft.
89	(3) If no person claims the balance within 12 months of the date of sale, the airport
90	authority shall retain the funds and use the funds for airport operations.
91	(I) Any person acquiring a legal interest in an aircraft pursuant to this section shall be the
92	lawful owner of the aircraft and all other legal or equitable interests in that aircraft shall be
93	divested: Provided, That the holder of any legal or equitable interest was notified of the intended
94	disposal of the aircraft as required by this section. The airport authority may issue documents of
95	disposition to the purchaser or recipient of an aircraft disposed of pursuant to this section.
	PART III. CONTROL OF VEHICULAR AND
	PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC NEAR AIRPORTS.
	§8-29-9. Rules and regulations to control vehicular and pedestrian traffic within quarter
	mile of airport; violation of rule and regulation a misdemeanor; penalty.
1	(a) The airport authority or the county court of the county in which any such airport or the
2	major portion thereof is located is hereby empowered and authorized, upon request of the
3	authority, to may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to:
4	(1) Control the movement and disposition of vehicular and pedestrian traffic within 1/4 mile
5	of any building or installation of any such airport;
6	(2) Regulate and control vehicular parking within such areas by the installation of parking
7	meters or by other methods; and
8	(3) Impose reasonable charges for the use of the parking space so metered or otherwise
9	allocated, so as to provide maximum opportunity for the public use thereof.
10	(b) Violation of any such rule and regulation shall constitute a misdemeanor and, the
11	offender, upon conviction in the manner provided by law, may be fined not less than \$2 \$10 nor
12	more than \$10 \$30 for each such violation.

(c) Justices of the peace Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts and with statutory courts of record having criminal jurisdiction for the trial of offenses under this section.

§8-29-12. Authorities to have right of eminent domain.

Whenever it shall be deemed necessary by an authority, in connection with the exercise of its powers herein conferred, to take or acquire any lands, structures or buildings or other rights, either in fee or as easements, for the purposes herein set forth, the authority may purchase the same directly or through its agents from the owner or owners thereof, or failing to agree with the owner or owners thereof, the authority may exercise the power of eminent domain in the manner provided for condemnation proceedings in chapter 54 of this code, and such purposes are hereby declared to be public uses for which private property may be taken or damaged. *Provided*, That under no circumstances shall an authority have the right of immediate entry

§8-29-17. Participation.

- (a) The municipalities and counties or any one or more of them participating therein, jointly or severally, are hereby empowered and authorized to may appoint members of the said authorities and to contribute to the cost of acquiring, establishing, constructing, equipping, improving, and maintaining and operating the said regional airports and appurtenant facilities.
- (b) Any of the municipalities or counties as provided in section one of this article is hereby empowered and authorized to may convey or transfer to the authorities property of any kind heretofore acquired by the municipalities or counties for airport purposes.

§8-29-20. Liberal construction of article.

The purposes of this article are to provide for the acquisition, establishment, construction, equipping, improvement, financing, maintenance, and operation of regional airports in a prudent and economical manner, and this article shall be liberally construed as giving to any authority created and established hereunder full and complete power reasonably required to give effect to the purposes hereof. The provisions of this article are in addition to and not in derogation of any

- 6 power granted to or vested in municipalities and county courts under any Constitutional, statutory,
- 7 or charter provisions which may now or hereafter be in effect.

ARTICLE 29B. AIRPORT SECURITY.

§8-29B-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

- (1) "Aircraft" means any contrivance now known, or hereafter invented, and used for flight in the air and which is operated by an air carrier holding a certificate issued by the civil aeronautics board of the Department of Transportation of the United States has the meaning provided in §29-2A-1 of this code.
- (2) "Airport" means any area of land or water which is used, or intended for use, for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, as defined above, and any appurtenant areas which are used, or intended for use, for airport buildings or other airport facilities or rights-of-way, together with all airport buildings and facilities located thereon as well as any heliport, helistop, vertiport, gliderport, seaplane base, ultralight flightpark, manned balloon launching facility, or other aircraft landing or takeoff area operated by an airport operator as that term is defined in §8-29B-2(3) of this code.
- (3) "Airport operator" means a governing body, regional airport authority, or county airport authority, under §8-28-1 *et seq.*, §8-29-1 *et seq.*, or §8-29A-1 *et seq.* of this code, or a board, commission, authority, or committee operating under any local act of the Legislature, charged with the operation and management of an airport.
- (4) "Airport police officer" means any individual assigned, appointed, or designated by an airport operator, to serve as a police officer at an airport.

§8-29B-3. Rules and regulations; penalties.

Each airport operator shall have plenary power and authority to manage and control the airport under its jurisdiction, to promulgate rules and regulations concerning the management and control of such airport, and to enforce any such rules and regulations so promulgated. Any rules and regulations promulgated shall be printed and posted in a conspicuous public place on the

airport premises. The violation of any such rule or regulation shall constitute a misdemeanor and, any person convicted of any such violation shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5 \$50 nor more than \$100 \$500 or confined in jail for a period not exceeding 30 days, or by both such fine and confined. Justices of the peace of the county shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court and other courts of record having criminal jurisdiction of any misdemeanor offenses arising under this article. Violation of any such rule or regulation which also constitutes the violation of any federal or state law or municipal ordinance may be prosecuted and punished as a violation of such federal or state law or municipal ordinance rather than under the provisions of this article. It shall be the duty of every airport operator in this state to promulgate all rules and regulations deemed necessary for airport security.

§8-29B-5. Jurisdiction of airport police officers; insurance coverage; bonds.

- (a) The following areas shall be under the jurisdiction of airport police officers:
- (1) In Any area under the jurisdiction and control of the airport operator, or in connection with the airport;
- 4 (2) Any property leased, operated, managed, utilized, or controlled by a regional airport

 5 authority; or
 - (3) Any area upon which a regional airport authority facilitates training activities pursuant to a written agreement. or
- 8 (5) In pursuit of one or more individuals therefrom, any airport police officer shall have:
 - (b) The jurisdiction of airport police officers shall include any area entered into in pursuit of one or more individuals from one of the areas described in subsection (a) of this section.
 - (c) When exercising the jurisdiction authorized by this section, airport police officers shall have:
- 13 (1) All of the power and authority which a regularly appointed deputy sheriff of a county in 14 this state has in enforcing the criminal laws of this state;

- (2) Full power and authority to enforce any and all federal laws and rules and regulations relating to airports, air passengers, baggage inspection, the screening of air passengers, and other airport security measures;
- (3) Full power and authority to enforce any and all rules and regulations promulgated by the airport operator; and
- (4) The power to search persons, packages, containers, and baggage and the power to arrest persons: *Provided,* That the foregoing provisions of this section shall under no circumstances whatever be construed as in any way limiting the power and authority of a municipal police officer or deputy sheriff who has been assigned to serve as an airport police officer which he <u>or she</u> has by virtue of his <u>or her</u> being a municipal police officer or deputy sheriff, and under no circumstances whatever shall the assignment or appointment or designation of one or more airport police officers at an airport be deemed in any way to supersede or limit the power and authority of other peace officers to preserve law and order at such airport.
- (d) Consistent with the provisions of section five, article seven, chapter sixty-one §61-7-5 of this code, any municipal police officer or deputy sheriff assigned as an airport police officer pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b), section four of this article §8-29B-4(b) of this code, and (notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary) any person appointed or designated as an airport police officer pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c), section four of this article §8-29B-4(c) of this code, shall not be required to obtain a state license to carry a deadly weapon, as provided for in section two, article seven of said chapter sixty-one §61-7-2 of this code. Any municipal police officer or deputy sheriff assigned as an airport police officer pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b), section four of this article §8-29B-4(b) of this code shall not be required to furnish any bond under section five, article seven of said chapter sixty-one §61-7-5 of this code, other than the bond furnished thereunder as such municipal police officer or deputy sheriff.

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(e) When one or more policies of public liability insurance are obtained providing insurance
coverage for legal liability of an airport police officer for bodily injury, personal injury, or damage
(including, but not limited to, false arrest and false imprisonment) and property damage, and
affording said airport police officer insurance coverage against any and all legal liability arising
from, growing out of, or by reason of, or in any way connected with, any acts or omissions of said
airport police officer in the performance of his or her official duties, and so long as the coverage
aforesaid remains in full force and effect as to such airport police officer, then the bond specified
in section five, article seven of said chapter sixty-one §61-7-5 of this code shall not be required
as to such airport police officer: <u>Provided</u> , That otherwise such bond shall otherwise be required
and must be furnished.