

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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SENATE DRS85025-MLf-34 (01/10)

Short Title: Charlotte Regional Airport Authority. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Rucho (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHARLOTTE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Charlotte Regional  
5 Airport Authority Act."

6 **SECTION 2.** There is hereby created the Charlotte Regional Airport Authority,  
7 which shall be a body corporate and politic, having the powers, authority, and jurisdiction  
8 hereinafter enumerated and such other and additional powers and authority as shall be  
9 conferred upon it by future acts of the General Assembly.

10 **SECTION 3.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply  
11 throughout this act to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

12 (1) Airport facilities. – Airport facilities of all kinds, including, but not limited  
13 to, landing fields, hangars, fixed base operations, shops, restaurants and  
14 catering facilities, terminals, buildings, automobile parking facilities and all  
15 other facilities necessary, beneficial, and/or helpful for the landing, taking  
16 off, operating, servicing, repairing, and parking of aircraft, the loading,  
17 unloading, and handling of cargo and mail, express and freight, and the  
18 accommodation, convenience, and comfort of crews and passengers,  
19 together with related transportation facilities, all necessary, beneficial,  
20 and/or helpful appurtenances, machinery, and equipment, and all lands,  
21 properties, rights, easements, and franchises relating thereto and considered  
22 necessary, beneficial, and/or helpful by the Authority in connection  
23 therewith.

24 (2) CAAC member. – A member of the Charlotte Airport Advisory Committee  
25 in existence when this act becomes law.

26 (3) Authority. – The Charlotte Regional Airport Authority created by this act or,  
27 if such Authority is abolished, the authority, board, body, commission, or  
28 other entity succeeding to the principal functions thereof.

29 (4) Member. – An individual who is appointed to the Authority as provided by  
30 this act.

31 **SECTION 4.** The Authority shall consist of eleven members. The appointing  
32 authorities are encouraged to appoint members who, when practical, have experience in  
33 aviation, logistics, construction and/or facilities management, law, accounting and/or finance.  
34 The eleven members shall be appointed as follows:

35 (1) One shall be a registered voter of the City of Charlotte appointed by the  
36 Charlotte City Council.



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- 1 (2) One shall be a registered voter of the City of Charlotte appointed by the  
2 Mayor of the City of Charlotte.
- 3 (3) One shall be a registered voter of the County of Mecklenburg appointed by  
4 the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County.
- 5 (4) One shall be a registered voter of the County of Cabarrus appointed by the  
6 Board of Commissioners of Cabarrus County.
- 7 (5) One shall be a registered voter of the County of Gaston appointed by the  
8 Board of Commissioners of Gaston County.
- 9 (6) One shall be (i) a registered voter in the State of North Carolina, (ii) a  
10 resident of one of the counties in the Authority, and (iii) appointed by the  
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 12 (7) One shall be (i) a registered voter in the State of North Carolina, (ii) a  
13 resident of one of the counties in the Authority, and (iii) appointed by the  
14 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 15 (8) One shall be a registered voter of the County of Union appointed by the  
16 Board of Commissioners of Union County.
- 17 (9) One shall be a registered voter in the State of North Carolina appointed by  
18 the Governor of the State of North Carolina.
- 19 (10) Two at-large members shall (i) be registered voters from either the State of  
20 North Carolina or the State of South Carolina, (ii) have experience in  
21 aviation, and (iii) be appointed by a majority vote of the other nine members.

22 **SECTION 4.(a)** No person holding any elected public office may be a member of  
23 the Authority.

24 **SECTION 4.(b)** Members of the Authority shall serve four-year terms and may  
25 serve up to a total of two successive four-year terms. A member may not be reappointed to the  
26 Authority except after a lapse of four years following the most recent term served. In the event  
27 a member is appointed to fill an unexpired term, and at least two years of the unexpired term  
28 remain to be served, such appointment shall be counted in applying the two-term limit,  
29 otherwise it shall not be counted.

30 **SECTION 4.(c)** Any vacancy occurring among the membership of the Authority  
31 shall be filled within 60 days after notice thereof by appointment of the appointing authority of  
32 a member to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

33 **SECTION 4.(d)** Members of the Authority and their successors shall take and  
34 subscribe to an oath of office before an officer authorized to administer oaths, which oath shall  
35 be filed with the Authority.

36 **SECTION 4.(e)** Any member of the Authority may be suspended or removed from  
37 office by that member's appointing authority for cause affecting that member's duties and  
38 responsibilities as a member; for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office; or for  
39 conduct tending to undermine any decisions of the Authority, or conduct exposing the  
40 Authority to liability for damages.

41 **SECTION 4.(f)** Members of the Authority shall not be personally liable, in any  
42 manner, for their acts or omissions as members of the Authority, except for malfeasance.

43 **SECTION 4.(g)** Each member may continue to serve until a successor has been  
44 duly appointed and qualified, but not for more than 60 days.

45 **SECTION 4.(h)** In order to ensure that the terms of all members of the Authority  
46 do not expire at the same time, the initial terms of the members of the Authority appointed by  
47 the Counties of Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union, and one of the two at-large members  
48 shall be for two years.

49 **SECTION 5.(a)** The organization and business of the Authority shall be conducted  
50 as provided in this act.

1           **SECTION 5.(b)** Members of the Authority shall constitute the governing board of  
2 the Authority and may, among other things and from time to time, adopt suitable bylaws, not  
3 inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

4           **SECTION 5.(c)** The Authority shall appoint from its members a chair, vice-chair,  
5 and such other officers as it may from time to time deem necessary, beneficial, and/or helpful  
6 for the orderly conduct of its business. The term of office of the chair and vice-chair is one  
7 year.

8           **SECTION 5.(d)** Each member of the Authority, including the chair, shall have one  
9 vote. A majority of the members of the Authority shall constitute a quorum, and, unless  
10 otherwise provided in this act, all actions of the Authority shall be determined by a majority  
11 vote of all the members, that is six votes in favor.

12           **SECTION 5.(e)** The Authority shall hold meetings at least monthly at such times  
13 and places as it from time to time may designate and at such other times on the call of the chair  
14 or by five members of the Authority. Notice of meetings shall be provided as required by  
15 Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. A monthly meeting of the Authority may  
16 be cancelled if it is determined by the chair or six members that such meeting is not required.

17           **SECTION 5.(f)** Members may receive payment or reimbursement for travel,  
18 lodging, and meal expenses incurred in transacting business on behalf of the Authority.  
19 Members may also receive free parking at any airport owned, leased, subleased, or controlled  
20 by the Authority, which members may use for official purposes during the respective member's  
21 term of office.

22           **SECTION 5.(g)** The fiscal year of the Authority shall begin on July 1 and end on  
23 June 30. On or before May 15 of each year, the Authority shall prepare and adopt a proposed  
24 budget for the next ensuing fiscal year and deliver copies of such proposed budget to the  
25 Cabarrus, Gaston, and Union County Boards of Commissioners and the Charlotte City Council.

26           **SECTION 5.(h)** All meetings and closed sessions of the Authority shall be  
27 conducted in accordance with Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes as it may be  
28 amended or in accordance with any successor statute.

29           **SECTION 6.(a)** The Authority shall constitute a body, both corporate and politic,  
30 and shall have the power and authority to do the following:

- 31           (1) Adopt and from time to time revise an official seal.
- 32           (2) Maintain an office or offices at such place or places as it may designate  
33           within Mecklenburg County only.
- 34           (3) Purchase, acquire, develop, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip,  
35           improve, administer, maintain, operate, and/or regulate airports and/or  
36           landing fields for the use of airplanes and other aircraft and all facilities  
37           incidental thereto, within the limits of Mecklenburg County; and for any of  
38           such purposes, purchase, acquire, own, develop, hold, lease, sublease, and  
39           operate real and/or personal property.
- 40           (4) Purchase real and personal property.
- 41           (5) Sue and be sued in the name of the Authority, to acquire by purchase or  
42           otherwise and to hold lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining,  
43           and/or operating any airport within the limits of said counties, and to make  
44           such contracts and to hold such personal property as may be necessary,  
45           beneficial, and/or helpful for the exercise of the powers of the Authority.
- 46           (6) Charge and collect fees, royalties, rents, and/or other charges, including fuel  
47           flowage fees, for the use and/or occupancy of property owned, leased,  
48           subleased, or otherwise controlled or operated by the Authority or for  
49           services rendered in the operation thereof.
- 50           (7) Make all reasonable rules, regulations, and policies as it may from time to  
51           time deem to be necessary, beneficial, or helpful for the proper maintenance,

1 use, occupancy, operation, and/or control of any airport or airport facility  
2 owned, leased, subleased, or controlled by the Authority; provide and  
3 enforce civil and criminal penalties for the violation of such rules,  
4 regulations, and/or policies; provided that such rules, regulations, policies,  
5 and penalties are not in conflict with any applicable law rule, or regulation of  
6 the State of North Carolina, the United States, or any agency, department, or  
7 subdivision of either of them, including the rules and regulations of the  
8 Federal Aviation Administration.

9 (8) Sell, exchange, lease, sublease, or otherwise dispose of, any property, real or  
10 personal, belonging to the Authority, or grant easements over, through,  
11 under, or across any real property belonging to the Authority, or donate to  
12 another governmental entity within this State or to the United States any  
13 surplus, obsolete, or unused personal property; provided that Article 12 of  
14 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes does not apply and is not applicable to  
15 any such sale, exchange, lease, sublease, grant, donation, or other  
16 disposition.

17 (9) Purchase such insurance and insurance coverages as the Authority may from  
18 time to time deem to be necessary, beneficial, or helpful.

19 (10) Deposit, invest, and/or reinvest any of its funds as provided by the Local  
20 Government Finance Act for the deposit or investment of unit funds.

21 (11) Issue revenue bonds and/or refunding bonds pursuant to the Local  
22 Government Revenue Bond Act.

23 (12) Purchase any of its outstanding bonds or notes.

24 (13) Operate, own, lease, sublease, control, regulate, and/or grant to others the  
25 right to operate on any airport premises restaurants, snack bars and vending  
26 machines, food and beverage dispensing outlets, rental car services, catering  
27 services, novelty shops, insurance sales, advertising media, merchandising  
28 outlets, motels, hotels, barber shops, automobile parking and storage  
29 facilities, automobile service stations, garage service facilities, motion  
30 picture shows, personal service establishments, and/or all other types of  
31 facilities as may be directly or indirectly related to the maintenance and/or  
32 furnishing of the public commercial and/or general aviation airport facilities.

33 (14) Accept grants of money and/or materials or property of any kind for any  
34 existing or future airport facilities from the State of North Carolina, the  
35 United States, or any agency, department, or subdivision of either of them,  
36 including the Federal Aviation Administration, or from any private agency,  
37 entity, or individual, upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed,  
38 and enter into contracts and grants agreements with the Federal Aviation  
39 Administration, or any successor or successors thereof, and/or with the State  
40 of North Carolina or any of its agencies, departments, or subdivisions in the  
41 capacity of sponsor or cosponsor of any airport development project  
42 involving the acquisition, construction, development, reconstruction,  
43 improvement, extension, enlargement, or equipment of any existing or future  
44 airport facilities.

45 (15) Employ and fix the compensation of an airport director, who shall serve at  
46 the pleasure of the Authority and who shall manage the affairs of the  
47 Authority under the supervision of the Authority.

48 (16) Employ, or provide for the employment of, such employees, including law  
49 enforcement officers, as the Authority may from time to time deem to be  
50 necessary, beneficial, or helpful. All such employees shall be employees at  
51 will, and no such employee shall have a defined or definite term of

- 1 employment or an expectation of continued employment or an expectation of  
2 continued indefinite employment.
- 3 (17) Employ, hire, retain, or contract with, such accountants, auditors, agents,  
4 design professionals, attorneys, and other persons and entities whose  
5 services may from time to time be deemed by the Authority to be necessary,  
6 beneficial, or helpful.
- 7 (18) Make or cause to be made such surveys, investigations, studies, borings,  
8 maps, plans, drawings, and/or estimates of cost and revenues as the  
9 Authority may from time to time deem necessary, beneficial, or helpful, and  
10 prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan or plans for the location,  
11 construction, improvement, and development of any project.
- 12 (19) Undertake and/or enter into leases, subleases, agreements, easements, and  
13 contracts, and/or grant concessions, with respect to alternative energy,  
14 energy conservation, energy reduction, and/or renewable energy activities,  
15 programs, projects, and/or ventures, and the administration, construction,  
16 development, enlargement, equipment, improvement, maintenance,  
17 management, operation, regulation, and/or repair thereof.
- 18 (20) Exercise all of the powers conferred by Chapter 63 of the General Statutes or  
19 any successor Chapter or law.

20 **SECTION 6.(b)** The Authority has the same exemptions with respect to payment  
21 of taxes and license fees as provided for municipal corporations by the laws of the State of  
22 North Carolina.

23 **SECTION 7.(a)** The Authority is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire  
24 from the County of Mecklenburg and the City of Charlotte, by agreement therewith, and such  
25 Counties and City may grant and convey, either by gift or for such consideration as allowed by  
26 federal law and as it may be deemed wise, any real and/or personal property which it now owns  
27 or may hereafter acquire, and which may be necessary, beneficial, or helpful for the  
28 construction, development, operation, and/or maintenance of any airport or facilities of same  
29 located in the County of Mecklenburg. If the airport ceases to operate or if the Authority is  
30 dissolved, any applicable real property of the County of Mecklenburg or the City of Charlotte  
31 conveyed or transferred to the Authority under this act shall revert to the grantor.

32 **SECTION 7.(b)** The City of Charlotte shall transfer to the Authority within 90  
33 days after enactment of this act all its right, title, and interest to the Charlotte Douglas  
34 International Airport, except if approval of a federal agency or a current bondholder is required,  
35 then within 90 days of that approval. This transfer includes all property, real or personal,  
36 tangible or intangible, and includes all liabilities.

37 **SECTION 7.(c)** Private property needed by the Authority for any airport, landing  
38 field, or facility may be acquired by the Authority by gift, devise, or private purchase. Aviation  
39 easements needed by the Authority for any airport, landing field, or facility may likewise be  
40 acquired by gift, devise, or private purchase. Unless the power of eminent domain is required  
41 by federal law or federal regulation, Chapter 40A of the General Statutes does not apply to the  
42 Authority, and it may not exercise the power of eminent domain. If a federal law or federal  
43 regulation does require the Authority to have the power to exercise eminent domain, it may  
44 only do so for public use for an airport purpose or purposes, and any eminent domain  
45 proceeding must be authorized jointly by all of the nine appointing authorities. In no case,  
46 however, may the power of eminent domain be used for purposes not necessary for the  
47 operation of the airport, and more specifically no property may be acquired by eminent domain  
48 for such uses as hotels, motels, restaurants, or industrial parks.

49 **SECTION 7.(d)** Any lands acquired, owned, controlled, or occupied by the  
50 Authority shall and/or are hereby declared to be acquired, owned, controlled, and occupied for  
51 a public purpose.

1           **SECTION 7.(e)** The Authority is not authorized to levy any tax.

2           **SECTION 7.(f)** Any claim by the City of Charlotte on account of acquisition of  
3 property by the Authority is extinguished.

4           **SECTION 8.** The Authority shall make annual reports to the Cabarrus, Gaston,  
5 Mecklenburg, and Union County Boards of Commissioners and the Charlotte City Council  
6 setting forth a summary of its general operations and transactions conducted by it pursuant to  
7 this act. The Authority shall be regarded as the corporate instrumentality and agent for  
8 Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties and the City of Charlotte for the purpose  
9 of developing aviation facilities in the Counties of Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union,  
10 but it shall have no power to pledge the credit of the Counties of Cabarrus, Gaston,  
11 Mecklenburg, and Union or the City of Charlotte, or to impose any obligation upon those  
12 counties, or the City of Charlotte, except and when such power is expressly granted by statute.

13           **SECTION 9.** All rights, powers, and authority given to the counties and/or  
14 municipalities by the statutes of North Carolina, which may now be in effect, or which may be  
15 enacted in the future, relating to the development, operation, maintenance, regulation, and/or  
16 control of municipal or other governmental airports and the regulations of aircraft are hereby  
17 vested in the Authority.

18           **SECTION 10.** The Authority is hereby expressly authorized to make and enter into  
19 contracts, leases, subleases, conveyances, and other agreements with any political subdivision,  
20 agency, department, or instrumentality of this State, any agency, department, or subdivision of  
21 the United States, or any other legal entity or person for the purpose of carrying out the  
22 provisions of this act.

23           **SECTION 11.** The powers of the Authority created by this act shall be construed  
24 liberally in favor of the Authority. No listing of powers included in this act is intended to be  
25 exclusive or restrictive, and the specific mention of, or failure to mention, particular powers in  
26 this act shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of the Authority as  
27 stated in Section 6(a) of this act. It is the intent of this act to grant the Authority full power and  
28 right to exercise all authority necessary for the effective operation and conduct of the  
29 Authority. It is further intended that the Authority should have all implied powers necessary or  
30 incidental to carrying out the expressed powers and the expressed purposes for which the  
31 Authority is created. The fact that this act specifically states that the Authority possesses a  
32 certain power does not mean that the Authority must exercise such power unless this act  
33 specifically so requires.

34           **SECTION 12.** G.S. 66-58(a) shall not apply to the Charlotte Regional Airport  
35 Authority or a lessee or sublessee of the Charlotte Regional Airport Authority.

36           **SECTION 13.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the  
37 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect  
38 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are  
39 severable.

40           **SECTION 14.** This act is effective when it becomes law.