



Office of the
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR**

Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kathleen Keenan
Legislative Affairs and Communications Manager

DATE: February 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Adoption of House Bill 631 and Senate Bill 780 as Filed in the 2022 Florida Legislative Session

BACKGROUND

Florida's public-use airports rely heavily on funding provided by both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for their large capital improvement projects. These projects include airfield infrastructure and facilities (runway, taxiway and parking apron pavement rehabilitation), airfield equipment, and landside road and building projects. However, regardless of the funding source, the airport sponsor is always responsible for providing matching funding from the airport or sponsor budget.

Under current state law, FDOT may provide up to 50 percent of eligible project costs to commercial service airports. General aviation airports may receive up to 80 percent funding from FDOT for eligible costs so long as the airport has no scheduled commercial service. The majority of these projects are maintenance of existing airport infrastructure to assure their continued safe operating condition.

Proposed legislation has been filed in both the House and Senate to amend section 332.007, Florida Statutes, to allow commercial service or general aviation airports, like Vero Beach Regional Airport, with fewer than 100,000 passenger boardings per year to not be subject to the reduced grant contributions. Representative Erin Grall has filed House Bill 631 (Airport Funding) and Senator Travis Hutson has filed Senate Bill 780 (Airports). This legislation as proposed would authorize funding by FDOT for up to 80 percent of eligible project costs for airports classified as commercial service or general aviation with fewer than 100,000 annual passenger boardings. FDOT funding will continue to come from the Aviation Grant fund and annual passenger boardings will be determined by the FAA. The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2022.

The City of Vero Beach has reached out to Indian River County requesting support for this proposed legislation.

FUNDING

There is no funding related to this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

County staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida pass a Resolution in support of the adoption and passage of House Bill 631 (by Representative Grall) and Senate Bill 780 (by Senator Hutson) as filed in the 2022 Florida Legislative Session and extends its appreciation to the local legislative delegation for its support and assistance.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution
Letter from the City of Vero Beach