

## CHAPTER 114.

## AERONAUTICS.

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**114.01 State airport system.** The state aeronautics commission is directed to cooperate with the federal administrator of civil aeronautics, hereinafter referred to as the "administrator," and his duly authorized representatives, in the preparation and annual revision of the national airport plan, as provided by the federal airport act, and to lay out a comprehensive state system of airports adequate to provide for the aeronautical needs of the people of all parts of the state. Such state system shall include each and every airport on the national system and such additional airports as may be deemed necessary. The state system as laid out shall include at least one airport in each county. In selecting the general location of the airports on the system and determining their capacity, due regard shall be given to aeronautical necessity as evidenced by the population of the locality to be served, its commerce and industry and such other factors as the commission shall deem pertinent. In selecting the specific sites, due regard shall be given to general suitability for service and economy of development as evidenced by convenience of access, adequacy of available area, character of topography and soils, freedom from hazards and obstructions to flight and other pertinent consideration.

**History:** 1951 c. 33.

A private airport and flying school is not a nuisance per se. The activities of an airport may be very annoying to persons residing in the neighborhood, but the legislative policy of state and federal governments is to encourage aviation. *Kuntz v. Werner Flying Service, Inc.* 257 W 405, 43 NW (2d) 476.

**114.013 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Aeronautics" means the science and art of flight and including but not limited to transportation by aircraft; the operation, construction, repair or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft power plants and accessories, including the repair, packing and maintenance of parachutes; the design, establishment, construction, extension, operation, improvement, repair or maintenance of airports or other air navigation facilities; and instruction in flying or ground subjects pertaining thereto.

(2) "Aircraft" means any contrivance now known, or hereafter invented, used or designated for navigation of or flight in the air.

(3) "Airport" means any area of land or water which is used, or intended for use, for the landing and take-off of aircraft, and any appurtenant areas which are used, or intended for use, for airport buildings or other airport facilities or right-of-ways, together with all airport buildings and facilities located thereon.

(4) "Air navigation facility" means any facility, other than one owned or operated by the United States, used in, available for use in, or designed for use in aid of air navigation, including any structures, mechanisms, lights, beacons, markers, communicating systems, or other instrumentalities, or devices used or useful as an aid, or constituting an advantage or convenience to the safe taking-off, navigation, and landing of aircraft, or the safe and efficient operation or maintenance of an airport, and any combination of any or all of such facilities.

(5) "Operation of aircraft" or "operate aircraft" means the use, navigation or piloting of aircraft in the airspace over this state or upon any airport within this state.

(6) "Airman" means any individual who engages, as the person in command, or as pilot, mechanic or member of the crew, in the navigation of aircraft while under way, and any individual who is directly in charge of the inspection, maintenance, overhauling or repair of aircraft engines, propellers or appliances, and any individual who serves in the capacity of aircraft dispatcher, or air-traffic control-tower operator; but does not include any individual employed outside the United States, or any individual employed by a manufacturer of aircraft, aircraft engines, propellers or appliances to perform duties as inspector or mechanic in connection therewith, or any individual performing inspection or mechanical duties in connection with aircraft owned or operated by him.

(7) "Aeronautics instructor" means any individual who for hire or reward engages in giving instruction or offering to give instruction in flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics; but excludes any instructor in a public school, university or institution of higher learning duly accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate work, who instructs in flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics, only in the performance of his duties at such school, university or institution.

(8) "Air school" means any aeronautics instructor who advertises, represents or holds out as giving or offering to give instruction in flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics; and any person who advertises, represents or holds out as giving or offering to give instruction in flying or ground subjects pertaining to aeronautics whether for or without hire or reward; but excludes any public school, or university, or institution of higher learning duly accredited and approved for carrying on collegiate work.

(9) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint stock association or body politic; and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee or other similar representative thereof.

(10) "Municipality" means any county, city, town or village of this state.

(11) "Airport hazard" means any structure, object of natural growth, or use of land which obstructs the airspace required for the flight of aircraft in landing or taking off at an airport or is otherwise hazardous to such landing or taking off.

(12) "State airway" means a route in the navigable airspace over and above the lands or waters of this state, designated by the commission as a route suitable for air navigation.

**History:** 1951 c. 299.

[114.015 Stats. 1941 repealed by 1943 c. 269]

**114.02 Sky sovereignty.** Sovereignty in the space above the lands and waters of this state is declared to rest in the state, except where granted to and assumed by the United States.

**114.03 Landowner's rights skyward.** The ownership of the space above the lands and waters of this state is declared to be vested in the several owners of the surface beneath, subject to the right of flight described in section 114.04.

**114.04 Flying lawful, landing unlawful; limitations; emergency.** Flight in aircraft over the lands and waters of this state is lawful, unless at such a low altitude as to interfere with the then existing use to which the land or water, or the space over the land or water, is put by the owner, or unless so conducted as to be imminently dangerous or damaging to persons or property lawfully on the land or water beneath. The landing of an aircraft on the lands or waters of another, without his consent, is unlawful, except in the case of a forced landing. For damages caused by a forced landing, however, the owner or lessee of the aircraft or the aeronaut shall be liable, as provided in section 114.05.

**114.05 Damages by aircraft.** The liability of the owner, lessee and pilot of every aircraft operating over the lands or waters of this state for injuries or damage to persons or property on the land or water beneath, caused by the ascent, descent or flight of such aircraft, or the dropping or falling of the aircraft or of any object or material therefrom shall be determined by the law applicable to torts on land, except that there shall be a presumption of liability on the part of the owner, lessee or pilot, as the case may be, where injury or damage is caused by the dropping or falling of the aircraft or of any object or material therefrom, which presumption may be rebutted by proof that the injury or damage was not caused by negligence on the part of the owner, lessee or pilot and the burden of proof in such case shall be upon such owner, lessee or pilot to show absence of negligence on his part.

**114.06 Inter-aircraft liability.** The liability of the owner of one aircraft, to the owner of another aircraft, or to aeronauts or passengers on either aircraft, for damage caused by collision on land or in the air shall be determined by the rules of law applicable to torts on land.

**114.07 Criminal jurisdiction.** All crimes, torts and other wrongs committed by or against an aeronaut or passenger while in flight over this state shall be governed by the

laws of this state; and the question whether damage occasioned by or to an aircraft while in flight over this state constitutes a tort, crime or other wrong by or against the owner of such aircraft, shall be determined by the laws of this state.

**114.08 Contracts made in flight.** All contractual and other legal relations entered into by aeronauts or passengers while in flight over this state shall have the same effect as if entered into on the land or water beneath.

**114.09 Reckless flying; penalty.** (1) No person shall operate an aircraft in the air, or on the ground or water while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotics or other drug, nor operate an aircraft in the air, or on the ground or water in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another. In determining whether the operation was careless or reckless the court shall consider the standards for safe operation of aircraft prescribed by federal statutes or regulations governing aeronautics. The court shall make a written report of all convictions (including bail or appearance money forfeitures) obtained under this section to the federal civil aeronautics administration.

(2) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$100 for the first offense and for a subsequent offense not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or imprisoned not less than 6 months, or both.

**114.095 Dropping objects prohibited.** No operator of an aircraft and no passenger therein shall drop any object therefrom except loose water or loose sand ballast; provided, however, that this section shall not prohibit the dusting or spraying of vegetation with insecticides dropped from airplanes, or the sowing of seeds, or the depositing of fish in lakes or streams, or the delivery of packages or mail by dropping from airplanes, or other similar practices, when such is done in accordance with the federal regulations applicable thereto.

**114.10 Killing birds or animals.** Any aeronaut or passenger, who, while in flight within this state, shall intentionally kill or attempt to kill any birds or animals or who shall shoot at any bird or animal from an airplane shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days nor more than 6 months or both.

**114.105 Local regulation.** Any county, town, city or village may adopt any ordinance in strict conformity with the provisions of this chapter and impose the same penalty for violation of any of its provisions except that such ordinance shall not provide for the suspension or revocation of pilot or aircraft licenses or certificates and shall not provide for imprisonment except for failure to pay any fine which may be imposed. No local authority shall enact any ordinance governing aircraft or aeronautics inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. Every court in which a violation of such ordinance is prosecuted shall make a written report of any conviction (including bail or appearance money forfeiture) to the federal civil aeronautics administration.

**114.11 Local airports; interstate reciprocity.** (1) The governing body of any county, city, village or town in this state is hereby authorized to acquire, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, maintain and operate airports or landing fields or landing and take-off strips for the use of airplanes and other aircraft either within or without the limits of such counties, cities, villages and towns, and may use for such purpose or purposes any property suitable therefor that is now or may at any time hereafter be owned or controlled by such county, city, village or town, and may regulate the same, provided, such regulation shall not be in conflict with such rules and regulations as may be made by the federal government. The governing body of each and every county and municipality owning an airport or landing field or landing and take-off strip in the state of Wisconsin shall cause the surroundings of such airport, landing field or landing and take-off strip to be marked for aeronautical purposes, and maintain such marking, subject to and in accordance with law and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be made by the federal government and in so doing may co-operate with other states and subdivisions thereof and acquire rights and easements in property outside of the state.

(2) The governing body of any county, city, village or town of this state is authorized to acquire, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, maintain and operate airports or landing fields or landing and take-off strips or other aeronautical facilities in an adjoining state whose laws permit, subject to the laws of such state, but subject to the laws of this state in all matters relating to financing such aeronautical project.

(3) The governing body of any municipality or other political subdivision of an adjoining state whose laws permit, is hereby authorized to acquire, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, maintain and operate airports, or landing fields, or

landing and take-off strips or other aeronautical facilities in this state, subject to all laws, rules and regulations of this state applicable to its municipalities or other political subdivisions in such aeronautical project, but subject to the laws of its own state in all matters relating to financing such project. Such municipality or other political subdivision of an adjoining state shall have all privileges, rights and duties of like municipalities or other political subdivisions of this state, including the right to exercise the right of eminent domain. This subsection shall not apply unless the laws of such adjoining state shall permit municipalities or other political subdivisions of this state to acquire, establish, construct, own, control, lease, equip, improve, maintain, operate and otherwise control such airport, landing field or landing and take-off strips or other aeronautical facilities therein with all privileges, rights and duties applicable to the municipalities or other political subdivisions of such adjoining state in such aeronautical projects.

(4) The governing body of any county, city, village or town is authorized to appropriate money to any town, city, village or other county, for the operation, improvement or acquisition of an airport by such town, city, village or other county or any combination of such municipalities.

An ordinance of the town in which Milwaukee county's airport is located, so far as purporting to regulate contracts entered into between the county and air-line operators at the airport and contracts entered into between such air-line operators and a cab company, relating to the ground transportation of air-line passengers between the airport and the city of Milwaukee, violates 27.05 and ch. 114, and unlawfully interferes with the operation of the airport by its owner, the county. *Milwaukee County v. Lake*, 259 W 208, 47 NW (2d) 87.

Milwaukee county, as the owner and operator of an airport located in a town several miles from the city of Milwaukee, has the exclusive right to manage such airport, including the right to regulate the ground transportation to be furnished to air-line passengers arriving at and departing from the airport on the property of the county, including the entrances to and exits from the airport adjacent to a public highway. See additional notes on this case under 85.82, 133.01 and 194.18. *Milwaukee County v. Lake*, 259 W 208, 47 NW (2d) 87.

**114.12 Condemnation of lands for airports.** Any lands acquired, owned, controlled or occupied by such counties, cities, villages and towns for the purposes enumerated in section 114.11 hereof shall and are hereby declared to be acquired, owned, controlled and occupied for a public purpose, and as a matter of public necessity, and such cities, villages, towns or counties shall have the right to acquire property for such purpose or purposes under the power of eminent domain as and for a public necessity including property owned by other municipal corporations and political subdivisions and including any street, highway, park, parkway or alley, provided that no state trunk highway shall be so acquired without the prior consent of the state highway commission. Whenever any such street, highway, park, parkway or alley shall be so acquired and the county, city, village or town as the case may be shall own land on both sides of such street, highway, park, parkway or alley, it may, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, be vacated and closed by resolution of the governing body of the county, city, village or town acquiring it and no damages shall be assessed against such county, city, village or town by reason of such closing, provided that if such closing shall leave any part of such street, highway, parkway or alley without access to another public street or highway, the county, town, city or village effecting such closing shall immediately provide such access at its expense.

**114.13 Purchase of land for airports.** Private property needed by a county, city, village or town for an airport or landing field or landing and take-off strip, or property or rights for the protection of the aerial approaches thereof, shall be acquired by purchase if the city, village, town or county is able to agree with the owners on the terms thereof, and otherwise by condemnation, in the manner provided by the law under which the city, village, town or county is authorized to acquire real property for public purposes, other than street purposes. The purchase price or award for real property acquired for an airport or landing field or landing and take-off strip, or property or rights for the protection of the aerial approaches thereof, may be paid for by appropriation of moneys available therefor, or wholly or partly from the proceeds of the sale of bonds of the city, village, town or county, as the governing body of such city, village, town or county shall determine, subject however to the provisions of chapter 67; provided that such property or rights may be acquired by gift, which the respective governing bodies of cities, villages, towns or counties are authorized to accept.

**History:** 1951 c. 299.

**114.135 Airport protection.** It is declared to be in the public interest that the aerial approaches to any airport be maintained in a condition best suited to the safe operation of aircraft and to that end the bulk, height, location and use of any building or structure, or any other object, and the use of land may be regulated or any building, structure or other object may be removed. It is the legislative intent that this section shall not super-

cede the provisions of section 59.97 (1) (b), but that it shall be supplemental to such section.

(1) The aerial approaches to any airport owned and operated by corporations organized to provide aeronautic facilities to the general public may be protected in the following manner: The owner of such airport shall prepare and file with the register of deeds plans and specifications showing the land affected, the owner of each parcel or interest therein, whether public or private, the regulations to be imposed on each parcel and the structures, buildings or other objects to be removed. The owner or managing body of the airport may negotiate and acquire from the owners of the various parcels or interest therein, whether public or private, by deeds the protection privileges shown by the plans and specifications. Referring in the deed to the plans and specifications, and briefly describing the same, shall be deemed sufficient legal description to convey the protection privileges set forth in said plans and specifications in the property of the grantor or grantors. In case the owner of the airport is unable to obtain by negotiation the desired protection privileges, he may acquire the same by eminent domain in the manner set forth in chapter 32, except as to lands and buildings of railway companies which are necessary to, or are used in connection with the operation of the railway. In case the protection privileges sought shall extend into more than one county the plans and specifications shall be filed with the register of deeds of each county. In case any parcel of land lies in more than one county, eminent domain proceedings may be instituted in the circuit court of any county in which said parcel is situated, provided a certified copy of the final judgment with a description of the property involved is recorded with the register of deeds of all counties in which such parcel of land or interest therein lies.

(2) In case of any airport landing field or landing and take-off strip owned by any city, village, town or county or any union of them, the commission or other body in charge of the operation and control of said airport, landing field or landing and take-off strip may prepare and file without charge with the register of deeds plans and specifications showing the protection privileges sought as described in subsection (1). The commission or other body in charge shall send by registered mail with return receipt to each owner at his last-known address a notice stating that said plans and specifications have been filed with the register of deeds' office, stating the county, time of filing, the file number, and a brief description of the parcel of land or interest therein affected. In case the address of the owner cannot be ascertained or the registered letter is returned unclaimed, notice shall be sent by registered mail to the person in possession of said premises, and if no person is in possession then the notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the land involved and published once a week for 3 successive weeks in some newspaper having general circulation published in the county, (if no such newspaper is published in the county, the notice shall be published in the newspaper of general circulation published nearest the parcel of land involved). The right of the owner or owners to claim for damages for the protection regulations imposed in the plans and specifications, or the removal of obstructions shall be forever barred, unless the owner shall file a claim for damages with the commission or other body in charge within 6 months from the receipt of the notice from the commission, or other body in charge, or the posting and last publication. The claim shall be verified and shall state the amount of damages claimed. The commission or other body in charge may pay the damages, if it has available funds, and the payment shall operate as a conveyance. If no claims for payment are filed or if payment is made, the commission or other body in charge shall file an affidavit for each parcel involved setting forth the rights acquired which shall be recorded by the register of deeds without charge and when so recorded shall have the same effect as any duly recorded instrument. In case any owner shall be a minor or non compos mentis, the notice may be sent by registered mail to his guardian, if he has one, and if he has none the county court of the county in which the land, or a larger part, is located shall upon application of the commission or other body in charge appoint a guardian to receive said notice, and to protect the rights of the said minor or non compos mentis. Any funds payable to said minor or non compos mentis, shall be cared for in the manner provided in chapter 319. If the commission or other body in charge shall deem the damages claimed to be excessive, it shall so report to the governing body or bodies which established the airport, landing field or landing and take-off strip in question and with its consent may acquire in the name of said governmental body or bodies the protection privilege desired in the manner set forth in subsection (1) or in the alternative, it may deposit with the county clerk an award and notify the owner or owners of the land involved in the method above specified. The land owner or owners may accept the award without prejudice to his right to claim and contest for a greater sum. The land owner may, within a period of 6 months after notice of the award, proceed as provided in chapter 32 to have his damages appraised.

(3) The power and authority to protect airports conferred in subsections (1) and (2) may be exercised from time to time; amended plans and specifications may be filed

in the register of deeds' office, and new protection privileges acquired from time to time in the methods provided by this section.

(4) The duty to prevent encroachments by growth of trees or other vegetation, or otherwise, upon the protection privileges acquired by any airport, landing field, landing and take-off strip, shall be upon the owner or owners of the parcel of land affected by the protection privilege only in cases where the owner or owners have received compensation for the protection privilege. Any such encroachment is declared to be a private nuisance and may be abated in the manner prescribed in chapter 280. In cases where no compensation has been paid for the protection privilege, encroachments shall be removed by the owner or the authority in charge of the airport, landing field, or landing and take-off strip and shall be, in case of a publicly owned airport, landing field or landing and take-off strip, a city, village, town or county charge as the case may be. In removing such encroachments, the owner or authority in charge of the airport, landing field or landing and take-off strip in question, may go upon the land and remove the encroachment without being liable for damages in so doing.

(5) It shall be unlawful for any one to build, create, cause to be built or created, any object, plant, or cause to be planted, any tree or trees or other vegetation, which shall encroach upon any acquired protection privilege. In addition to the penalty set forth in section 114.27, such encroachment is declared to be a private nuisance and may be removed in the manner prescribed in chapter 280.

**114.136 Airport approach protection.** (1) **POWERS OF MUNICIPALITIES.** (a) Any county, city, village or town that is the owner of a site for an airport which has been approved for such purpose by the appropriate agencies of the state and the federal government may protect the aerial approaches to such site by ordinance regulating, restricting and determining the use, location, height, number of stories and size of buildings and structures and objects of natural growth in the vicinity of such site and may divide the territory to be protected into several areas and impose different regulations and restrictions with respect to each area. The provisions of such ordinance shall be effective whether the site and the lands affected by such ordinance are located within or without the limits of such county, city, village or town, and whether or not such buildings, structures and objects of natural growth are in existence on the effective date of the ordinance. Such regulations, restrictions and determinations are declared to be for the purpose of promoting the public safety, welfare and convenience, and may be adopted, enforced and administered without the consent of any other governing body. Any ordinance adopted under this section may be amended from time to time in the same manner as is provided for the adoption of the original ordinance in subsection (2). The authority granted in this section shall be independent and exclusive of any other authority granted in the statutes.

(b) When an airport site is owned jointly by 2 or more units of government, such ordinance may be adopted by joint action of the governing bodies of such units. In such case, such governing bodies shall meet jointly to select a joint commission consisting of one member from each governing body selected by that governing body and, if there be 2, the members so selected shall elect a third member. Such joint commission shall elect a chairman and a secretary, and shall have authority to formulate a tentative ordinance and hold public hearings as provided in subsection (2). At least 15 days written notice of the meeting to select a joint commission shall be given to each governing body by filing a copy of such written notice with the clerk thereof. Such notice may be given on the initiative of one such governing body or jointly by more than one. The governing bodies that attend such meeting may proceed jointly. If one attends, or if only one favors an ordinance, it may proceed alone without appointing a commission, but no ordinance applicable to a jointly owned airport shall be adopted by a governing body acting alone unless it has given notice of meeting to select a joint commission as provided by this subsection, and such ordinance shall be as effective as if adopted by the joint bodies.

(2) **FORMULATION OF ORDINANCE, PUBLIC HEARING.** (a) Except as provided by subsection (1) (b) the county park commission in the case of any county, the city or village plan commission in the case of a city or village, or if there be no such commissions, a committee of the governing body or bodies of the county, city, village or town which owns the airport site shall first formulate a tentative ordinance and hold a public hearing or hearings thereon in some public place within the county, city, village or town. At least 10 days notice of such hearing or hearings shall be given by publication in the official paper at least 3 times or in some newspaper having general circulation or by posting in at least 3 public places in the area affected by the proposed ordinance.

(b) The regulations, restrictions and determinations shall include, among other things, provisions for the limitation of the height of buildings, structures and objects of natural

growth located not more than 3 miles from the boundaries of the airport site. Such regulations, restrictions and determinations shall specify the maximum permissible height of buildings, structures and objects of natural growth and may specify such maximum permissible height as a ratio between the permissible maximum height of the building, structure or object of natural growth above the level of the airport site and its distance from the nearest point on the boundary of the airport site. For the purposes of this section, buildings, structures and objects of natural growth shall not be restricted to a height above the level of the airport site which is less than one-thirtieth of its distance from the boundary of the airport site in the case of class I and II airports as classified by the civil aeronautics administration of the United States department of commerce and one-fiftieth of its distance from the boundary of the airport in the case of class III and larger airports as classified by said administration. Provided, however, that a building, structure, or object of natural growth within 3 miles of the airport site may be restricted to a height of 150 feet above the airport level, which is defined as the lowest point planned on any runway.

(c) Should a greater restriction be deemed necessary for the proper protection of any part of the area affected, such greater restriction shall be secured by purchase or by the exercise of the right of eminent domain in the manner provided by chapter 32.

(d) The height restrictions shall not apply to legal fences or to farm crops which are cut at least once each year.

(3) **NONCONFORMING USES.** The lawful use of land, buildings and structures existing at the time of the adoption or amendment of any ordinance under the authority of this section may be continued, although such use does not conform with the provisions of the ordinance. The expansion or enlargement of a nonconforming use shall be in conformity with the ordinance. The governing body of the owner of the airport site may remove such nonconforming use or acquire the necessary air right over the same by purchase or exercise of the right of eminent domain in the manner provided by chapter 32.

(4) **BOARD OF APPEALS.** (a) Any ordinance adopted under the authority of this section shall provide for a board of appeals. If the county, city or village which is the owner of the airport has a zoning ordinance adopted under provision of law other than this section, the board of adjustment or board of appeals set up by such ordinance shall be the board of appeals under the ordinance adopted under this section, and shall have duties, powers and functions as provided by the zoning ordinance adopted under provisions of law other than this section.

(b) If there be no such board of appeals or board of adjustment, any regulations adopted under this section shall provide for a board of appeals. Where the airport is owned jointly, the ordinance shall provide for a joint board of appeals. Such board shall be constituted and have all the powers, duties and functions as provided in section 62.23 (7) (e), but not more than 2 members of such board shall be owners or occupants of the area affected by the ordinance.

(5) **ENFORCEMENT.** The governing body of the county, city, village or town owning the airport site may provide for the enforcement of any ordinance or regulations enacted pursuant to this section. Such enforcement may be by a system of permits or any other appropriate method. The governing body enacting the ordinance may provide for the punishment of a violation of the ordinance by fine or imprisonment, or both.

**History:** 1951 c. 117, 118; 1951 c. 261 s. 10; 1951 c. 734.

**114.14 Equipment, control of airport; expense; regulations.** (1) The governing body of a city, village, town or county which has established an airport or landing field, or landing and take-off strip, and acquired, leased or set apart real property for such purpose may construct, improve, equip, maintain and operate the same, or may vest jurisdiction for the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance and operation thereof in any suitable officer, board or body of such city, village, town or county. The expenses of such construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance and operation shall be a city, village, town or county charge as the case may be. The governing body of a city, village, town or county may adopt regulations, and establish fees or charges for the use of such airport or landing field, or may authorize an officer, board or body of such village, city, town or county having jurisdiction to adopt such regulations and establish such fees or charges, subject however to the approval of such governing body before they shall take effect.

(2) The governing body of a city, village, town or county which has established an airport may vest jurisdiction for the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance and operation thereof in an airport commission of 3 commissioners. In the case of a county, such commissioners shall be appointed by the county judge; in the case of cities, villages and towns by the mayors or city managers, village presidents and town chairmen, respec-

tively. Their terms shall be 6 years; on the first appointment the members shall be appointed for terms of 2, 4, and 6 years, respectively. Their compensation and allowance for expenses shall be as fixed by the governing body. Such commissioners shall be persons especially interested in aeronautics. Such airport commission shall elect one member chairman and one secretary who shall keep an accurate record of all its proceedings and transactions and report such to the governing body. Such commission shall have complete and exclusive control and management over the airport for which it has been appointed. All moneys appropriated for the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance or operation of an airport, managed as provided by this subsection, or earned by such airport or made available for its construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance or operation in any manner whatsoever, shall be deposited with the treasurer of the city, village, town or county where it shall be kept in a special fund and paid out only on order of the airport commission, drawn and signed by the secretary and countersigned by the chairman. In case of union airports owned by 2 governmental units, one commissioner shall be first appointed as provided by this subsection, the third shall be appointed alternately from each such unit starting with one from the governmental unit whose name comes first in the alphabet. In cases where there are 3 or more such governmental units, one commissioner shall be appointed for each. The length of the terms to be served by each shall be determined by lot. The moneys available for union airports shall be kept in the manner provided in this subsection in the treasury of one of the governmental units selected by the commission, and paid out in like manner.

(3) In carrying out its duties the airport commission may employ a manager who may be a member of the commission and fix his compensation (but no member of the commission shall vote on the question of his selection as manager nor on any question as to his compensation), and employ and fix the compensation of such other employes as may be deemed necessary; may make such contracts or other arrangements as may be deemed necessary for the construction, improvement, equipment, maintenance or operation of the airport; may contract with the United States or any agency thereof; may contract with private parties for a term not to exceed 10 years for the operation of the airport, including all necessary arrangements for the improvement and equipment and successful operation thereof. Provided, that in no case shall the public be deprived of equal and uniform use of the airport; and further, that no act, contract, lease or any activity of the airport commission shall be or become a binding contract on any government unit unless expressly authorized, and then only to the extent so expressly authorized.

**114.15 Appropriation, taxation for airports.** The local authorities of a city, village, town or county to which this chapter is applicable having power to appropriate money therein may annually appropriate and cause to be raised by taxation in such city, village, town or county, a sum sufficient to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

**114.151 Union airports.** All powers conferred upon any county, city, village or town by sections 114.11 to 114.15, relating to the acquisition, establishment, construction, ownership, control, lease, equipment, improvement, maintenance, operation and regulation of airports or landing fields may be exercised by any 2 or more municipalities in the establishment, acquisition, equipment and operation of joint airports or landing fields. The governing body of any county, city, village or town participating in the ownership or operation of a joint airport as provided in this section may by resolution withdraw from such joint operation or control and may relinquish its interest in the airport.

**114.16 Pilots; federal license or permit.** It shall be unlawful for any person to pilot within this state any civil aircraft, unless such person is the holder of a currently effective pilot's license or student's permit issued by the government of the United States; but this restriction shall not apply to any person operating any aircraft licensed by a foreign country with which the United States has a reciprocal agreement covering the operation of such licensed aircraft.

**114.17 Mechanic's license, issue, presentation.** Any person repairing, adjusting, inspecting or overhauling aircraft or aircraft engines within this state shall be in possession of a mechanic's license issued to him by the department of commerce of the United States, which must be presented for inspection upon demand of any passenger, peace officer of this state, or any official, manager or person in charge of any airport or landing field in this state.

**114.18 Aircraft; airworthiness; federal license.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, pilot or navigate, or cause or authorize to be operated, piloted or navigated within this state any civil aircraft, unless such aircraft has a currently effective license issued by the government of the United States or has been duly identified by the government of the United States but this restriction shall not apply to aircraft licensed by a



foreign country with which the United States has a reciprocal agreement covering the operations of such licensed aircraft, or to a nonpassenger-carrying flight solely for inspection or test purposes authorized by the United States to be made without such license.

**114.19 Display of licenses.** The certificate of the license or permit respectively required of a pilot or a student shall be kept in the personal possession of the licensee or permittee when he is operating an aircraft within this state. The certificate of the license required for an aircraft shall be carried in the aircraft at all times and shall be conspicuously posted therein in clear view of passengers. Such certificate of pilot's license, student's permit or aircraft license shall be presented for inspection upon the demand of any passenger, any peace officer of this state, any authorized official, or any official, manager or person in charge of any airport in this state upon which it shall land, or upon the reasonable request of any other person. In any criminal prosecution under any of the provisions of this chapter, a defendant who relies upon a license or permit of any kind shall have the burden of proving that he is properly licensed or is the possessor of a proper license or permit. The fact of nonissuance of such license or permit may be evidenced by a certificate signed by the official having power of issuance, or his deputy, under seal of office, stating that he has made diligent search in the records of his office and that from the records it appears that no such license or permit was issued.

[114.20 to 114.26 Stats. 1941 repealed by 1943 c. 269]

[114.26 Stats. 1941 repealed by 1943 c. 515 s. 13]

**114.27 Penalty.** Any person failing to comply with the requirements, or violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

[114.28 Stats. 1945 repealed by 1947 c. 548]

**114.30 Aeronautics commission.** (1) **MEMBERSHIP.** There is hereby created a state aeronautics commission consisting of 5 members to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The members of the said commission shall be men qualified by their knowledge of, experience in or interest in aeronautics. Of the members first appointed, 2 shall serve for terms ending April 30, 1947; 2 for terms ending on April 30, 1949; and one for a term ending on April 30, 1951. Successive members shall be appointed for terms of 6 years each. Members shall continue to serve until their successor is appointed and qualified. Members of the commission shall receive no pay for their services as such members, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(2) **ORGANIZATION, MEETING, REPORT.** The commission shall, within 30 days after its appointment, meet, organize, adopt a seal, and make such rules and regulations for its administration, not inconsistent herewith, as it may deem expedient and may from time to time amend such rules and regulations. At such organization meeting it shall elect from among its members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a secretary, to serve for one year, and annually thereafter shall elect such officers; all to serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. Meetings may be called by the chairman and shall be called on the request of 2 members, and may be held as often as necessary, and may be at places other than the state capitol. Three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All regular and special commission meetings shall be open to the public. It shall report in writing to the governor on or about December 1 of each year. Said report shall contain a summary of its proceedings during the preceding fiscal year, a detailed and itemized statement of all revenue and of all expenditures made by or in behalf of the commission, such other information as it may deem necessary or useful and any additional information which may be requested by the governor.

(3) **DIRECTOR; SALARY, QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES.** The commission shall employ a director of aeronautics who shall continue in office at the pleasure of the commission and shall be reimbursed for all traveling and other expenses incurred by him in the discharge of his official duties. Such director shall be a person having executive ability and experience in aeronautics, and shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter 16 governing the competitive division of the classified service. He shall be administrative head of the commission, shall be responsible to the commission for the execution of its policies; and shall exercise the powers of the commission in the interim of its meetings but subordinate thereto. He shall not have any pecuniary interest in or any stock in or any bonds of any civil aeronautics enterprise.

**History:** 1951 c. 97 s. 40; 1951 c. 319 s. 231.

**114.31 Powers and duties of commission.** (1) **GENERAL.** The commission shall have general supervision of aeronautics in the state and promote and foster a sound development of aviation in this state, promote aviation education and training programs, assist in

the development of aviation and aviation facilities, safeguard the interests of those engaged in all phases of aviation, formulate and recommend and promote reasonable regulations in the interests of safety, and co-ordinate state aviation activities with those of other states and the federal government. The commission shall have all powers that are necessary to carry out its policies, including the right to require that statements made to it be under oath. The commission is especially charged with the duty of informing itself regarding all federal laws that affect aeronautics in this state, all regulations pursuant to such laws, and all pending legislation providing for a national airport system, in order that it may recommend to the governor and the legislature such measures as will best enable this state to derive the maximum benefits from such legislation if and when it shall become effective. It shall be the duty of all other state boards, commissions, departments and institutions, especially the appropriate educational institutions to co-operate with the aeronautics commission.

(2) **STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS.** It shall conduct studies and investigations with reference to the most effective development and operation of airports and all other aeronautical facilities, and issue reports of its findings from time to time.

(3) **AVIATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING.** In cooperation with the appropriate educational institutions of the state, and jointly with them it shall formulate programs of aviation education and training, and disseminate information regarding such programs.

(4) **CO-OPERATION WITH FEDERAL AERONAUTICAL AGENCY.** It shall cooperate with and assist the federal government, the political subdivisions of this state, and others engaged in aeronautics or the promotion of aeronautics, and shall seek to coordinate the aeronautical activities of these bodies. To this end, the commission is empowered to confer with or to hold joint hearings with any federal aeronautical agency in connection with any matter arising under chapter 114, relating to the sound development of aeronautics, and to avail itself of the cooperation, services, records and facilities of such federal agencies, as fully as may be practicable, in the administration of said sections. It shall furnish to the federal agencies its cooperation, services, records and facilities, in so far as may be practicable.

(5) **AIR MARKING SYSTEM.** It shall cooperate with the federal government in any air marking system and weather information.

(6) **TECHNICAL SERVICES TO MUNICIPALITIES.** It may, in so far as is reasonably possible, offer the engineering or other technical service of the commission, without charge, to any municipality desiring them in connection with the construction, maintenance or operation or proposed construction, maintenance or operation of an airport. Municipalities are authorized to cooperate with the commission in the development of aeronautics and aeronautical facilities in this state. The state planning board and all other agencies are authorized and directed to make available such facilities and services, and to cooperate as far as possible to promote the best interests of aeronautics of the state.

(7) **INSURANCE ON PASSENGERS.** In the performance of its duty to promote and foster aviation education and the sound development of aviation in this state, as provided by subsection (1), and increase knowledge of the state and its resources, the commission is authorized, in connection with chartered flights sponsored by educational institutions approved by the commission, to enter into contracts with insurance companies authorized to transact business in this state for the purpose of issuing insurance to passengers against injuries sustained in connection with such sponsored flights. In order to effectuate such contracts the commission is authorized to advance deposit premiums out of its appropriation by section 20.053 in aggregate amounts not exceeding \$500; such deposit premiums to be repaid by the insurers from premiums collected by the insurers from the insured, in accordance with the contract. The commission shall designate an employe to act as its authorized representative to supervise such sponsored flights, whose duty it shall be to require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations designed to promote safety, to keep an account of the insurance issued to passengers and premiums collected, and perform such other duties as the commission may require. Such authorized representative may assist the insurer in the issuance of insurance to passengers in such sponsored flights, but shall receive no compensation for any services so rendered. At the termination of the period covered by a contract, the insurer shall repay the advanced premium, less any amount by which the aggregate amount of premiums guaranteed under the contract shall exceed the aggregate amount of premiums collected. Such repayment shall be paid into the state treasury and be credited to the appropriation by section 20.053.

**History:** 1951 c. 299, 459.

**114.315 Review.** Orders of the commission shall be subject to review in the manner provided in chapter 227.

**114.32 Federal aid for airports. (1) COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT.** The commission is authorized to co-operate with the government of the United States, and any agency or department thereof in the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of airports and other air navigation facilities in this state, and to comply with the laws of the United States and any regulations made thereunder for the expenditure of federal moneys upon such airports and other air navigation facilities, and may enter into any contracts necessary to accomplish such purpose. It is authorized to accept, receive and receipt for federal moneys and other moneys, either public or private, for and in behalf of this state or any municipality thereof, for training and education programs, for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of airports and other aeronautical facilities, whether such work is to be done by the state or by such municipalities, or jointly, aided by grants of aid from the United States, upon such terms and conditions as are or may be prescribed by laws of the United States and any rules or regulations made thereunder, and it is authorized to act as agent of any municipality of this state upon the request of such municipality, in accepting, receiving and receipting for such moneys in its behalf for airports, and in contracting for the acquisition, improvement, maintenance or operation of airports financed either in whole or in part by federal moneys, and the governing body of any such municipality is authorized to designate the commission as its agent for such purposes and to enter into an agreement with it prescribing the terms and conditions of such agency in accordance with federal laws, rules and regulations and with chapter 114. Such moneys as are paid over by the United States government shall be retained by the state or paid over to said municipalities under such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the United States government in making such grants.

(3) **CONTRACTS.** All contracts for the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of airports and other aeronautical facilities, made by the commission either as the agent of this state or as the agent of any municipality, shall be made pursuant to the laws of this state governing the making of like contracts; provided, however, that where the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of any airport or landing strip and other aeronautical facilities is financed or partially financed with federal moneys, the commission, as agent of the state or of any municipality thereof, may let contracts in the manner prescribed by the federal authorities, acting under the laws of the United States, and any rules or regulations made thereunder, notwithstanding any other state law to the contrary.

(4) **DISPOSITION OF FEDERAL FUNDS.** All moneys accepted for disbursement by the commission pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the state treasury, and, unless otherwise prescribed by the authority from which the money is received, kept in separate funds, designated according to the purpose for which the moneys were made available, and held by the state in trust for such purposes. All such moneys are appropriated for the purposes for which the same were made available to be expended in accordance with federal laws and regulations and with chapter 114. The commission is authorized, whether acting for this state or as the agent of any of its municipalities, or when requested by the United States government or any agency or department thereof, to disburse such moneys for the designated purposes, but this shall not preclude any other authorized method of disbursement.

(5) **LOCAL PROJECTS AND FUNDS; COMMISSION'S FUNCTIONS.** No county, city, village or town, whether acting singly or jointly with a county, city, village or town, shall submit to the administrator of civil aeronautics of the United States any project application under the provisions of section 9 (a) of the federal airport act, or any amendment thereof, unless the project and the project application have been first approved by the commission. No such county, city, village or town shall directly accept, receive, receipt for or disburse any funds granted by the United States under the federal airport act, but it shall designate the commission as its agent and in its behalf to accept, receive, receipt for and disburse such funds. It shall enter into an agreement with the commission prescribing the terms and conditions of the commission's functions under such agency in accordance with federal laws, rules and regulations and applicable laws of this state.

[114.325 Stats. 1945 renumbered section 114.315 by 1947 c. 548]

**114.33 Initiation of airport project; sponsorship.** (1) Any county, city, village or town, either singly or jointly with one or more counties, cities, villages or towns, desiring to sponsor an airport development project to be constructed with federal aid as provided by the federal airport act and state aid or with the state aid alone as provided by this chapter, may initiate such project in the manner provided by this section. Any state agency may initiate and sponsor an airport project in the same manner as a local governing body.

(2) Such initiation shall be by a petition filed with the commission by the governing body or bodies of the counties, cities, villages or towns desiring to sponsor the project, or by the state agency setting forth among other things that the airport is necessary and the reason therefor; the class of the airport that it is desired to develop, the location in general, and the proposed site if such has been tentatively selected; the character, extent and kind of improvement desired under the project, and any other statements that the petitioners may desire to make. On receipt of such petition there shall be a hearing in the matter by the commission at some place convenient to the petitioners. At least 10 days' notice shall be given to each petitioning governing body or state agency by registered letter addressed to the clerk thereof, and in the case of petitioning governing bodies by publication in one or more newspapers likely to give notice of such hearing.

(3) The commission shall make its finding within a reasonable time after the hearing. If such finding be generally favorable to the development petitioned for, the commission shall submit its finding to the governor for approval and no finding favoring an airport development project shall be effective unless the governor's approval is indorsed thereon in writing. If such finding is approved by the governor the commission shall notify the petitioners to that effect by filing a copy of its finding, which shall include among other things the location of the approved site, the character and extent of the improvements deemed necessary, and an approximate estimate of the costs and the amount to be paid by the sponsor. Such finding shall constitute approval of the airport site so specified as a portion of the state airport system. On receipt of such finding the sponsors shall take action at their next meeting toward providing their share of the cost and shall promptly notify the commission. The sponsors may proceed in accordance with the finding to acquire the site and to make master development plans and project plans, and shall be entitled to receive credit therefor as provided by the federal airport act and by this chapter. On completion and approval of the plans a revised estimate of the project costs shall be made for the purposes of the project application.

(4) All projects for the development of airports with federal aid shall be in compliance with the federal airport act, and the regulations under it. All plans and other arrangements for development of projects with state aid alone shall be subject to the approval of the commission.

(5) The sponsor's share of the cost of a project shall be deposited in the state treasury promptly on request of the commission, to be held in trust for the purposes of the project. Such request shall not be made by the commission until acceptable bids have been received, in the case of projects to be carried out by contract, or approved arrangements have been made for a county or municipality to do the work in a manner similar to the applicable provisions of section 84.06 (3). The commission need not request deposit of the entire share at any one time. The commission shall have the right to suspend or discontinue proceedings or construction relative to any project at any time if any sponsor shall fail to pay the amount properly required of it as its contribution to such project in accordance with the request of the commission.

**114.34 State and sponsor's share of costs.** (1) The costs of projects under the federal airport act, in excess of the federal government's share, shall be borne by the sponsor and the state, except that the state shall pay not more than one-half of such excess costs, nor more than \$35,000 for the cost of a building project or building improvement project and no part of the cost of hangars. Sponsors who have undertaken the construction of municipal airport building projects subsequent to January 1, 1951, shall be entitled to state aid.

(2) The costs of projects not under the federal airport act shall be borne by the sponsor and the state. The state shall pay not more than one-half of such costs, which may include the cost of the land, the cost of lands or interest in lands deemed necessary for the protection of the aerial approaches, the cost of formulating the project application and preparing the plans and specifications, the cost of construction and of all facilities deemed necessary for the operation of the airport. The state shall not contribute more than \$35,000 for the cost of a building project or building improvement project and no part of the cost of hangars.

**History:** 1951 c. 515.

**114.35 Federal aid; state and local funds.** (1) It is declared to be the policy of the state to provide each year an amount approximately equal to the estimated average amount to be apportioned to the state under the federal airport act. The commission shall use the amount provided by the state to assist sponsors in matching the federal aid that they may become available to the state under section 6 (a) of the federal airport act or available to specific projects within the state that they may be determined by the administrator under section 6 (b) of the federal airport act to aid sponsors in the devel-

opment of approved projects on the state system independent of federal aid and for air-marking and air navigation facilities.

(2) In order that the people from all parts of the state may have opportunity to benefit from the airports and other aeronautical facilities to be developed under the 7-year program contemplated by the federal airport act, the commission shall make a preliminary apportionment of the amount estimated to become available to the state under section 6 (a) of such act in the course of the 7-year program, for airport development by each county and its cities, villages and towns. Such preliminary apportionment for airport development by each county and its cities, villages and towns, shall be three-fourths in the proportion which the total population of the county bears to the total population of the state and one-fourth in the proportion which the total area of each county bears to the total area of the state.

(3) The amount of federal aid made available for airport development under section 6 (a) of the federal airport act by any county and its cities, villages and towns through applications approved prior to July 1, 1949, shall not exceed the preliminary apportionment to that county, but allocations of federal aid made prior to August 23, 1947 shall not be affected by this section. Federal aid for projects on or after July 1, 1949, shall be made available without reference to such preliminary apportionment.