

No. 78. An act relating to promoting economic development.

(S.162)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * State-Owned Airport Permitting * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) On January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development and the Secretary of Transportation updated the State's Economic Development and Economic Development Marketing Plans to incorporate the marketing of State-owned airports as an important tool for attracting and retaining businesses, enhancing workforce development, spearheading crucial technology advancements, and growing commerce essential to Vermont's future.

(2) On January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Transportation submitted to the General Assembly its Feasibility Evaluation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Electric Aircraft Charging Stations, and Renewable Energy Generating Plants at State-Owned Airports Pursuant to Act 108 of 2018. The Evaluation noted that State-owned airports are suitable sites for electric vehicle charging stations and electric aircraft charging stations, and that solar photovoltaic installations can be compatible with airport operations.

Sec. 2. DEFINITIONS

As used in this act:

(1) “State-owned airport master permit” means all permits necessary to construct infrastructure, buildings, runway access, and related assets in support of general aviation and aviation-focused commercial and manufacturing enterprises at State-owned airports, excluding activities associated with runway expansion and infrastructure required for general airport operations. Permits included in the State-owned airport master permit include any applicable Act 250 permit, any applicable permits issued by the Agencies of Natural Resources and of Transportation, the Division of Fire Safety, the Natural Resources Board, and the Public Utility Commission.

(2) “State-owned airport permit master plan” means a comprehensive plan to construct infrastructure, buildings, runway access, and related assets in support of general aviation and aviation-focused commercial and manufacturing enterprises at State-owned airports, excluding activities associated with runway expansion and infrastructure required for general airport operations. State-owned airport permit master plans may be developed by the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, for the review and approval by the Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, the Natural Resources Board, and the Public Utility Commission prior to the submission of applications for permits in the State-owned airport master permit.

(3) “Renewable energy” has the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 8002.

(4) “Renewable energy generating plant” means real and personal property, including any equipment, structure, or facility used for or directly related to the generation of electricity from renewable energy.

Sec. 3. APPLICATIONS FOR MASTER PERMITS

(a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, is encouraged to obtain, as swiftly as practicable, all permits in the State-owned airport master permit necessary for growth, development, and facility upgrades at each State-owned airport. State-owned airport permit master plans shall include charging stations for electrified aircraft and, when practicable, renewable energy generating plants that advance the State’s preference to utilize all roof space for photovoltaic installations.

(b) In processing permits in the State-owned airport master permit sought by the Agency of Transportation, State agencies, departments, commissions, and boards may waive permit fees for all permits in the State-owned airport master permit provided that a State-owned airport permit master plan was reviewed and approved prior to the submission of any applications for permits in the State-owned master airport permit.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: June 19, 2019