

1 Introduced by Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

2 Date:

3 Subject: Aviation; airports; permits; economic development

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to encourage the
5 Agencies of Commerce and Community Development and of Transportation to
6 apply for permits and allows the State to waive the associated permit fees.

7 An act relating to permitting and State-owned airports

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

9 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

10 The General Assembly finds:

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

18 (2) On January 15, 2019 the Secretary of Transportation submitted to
19 the General Assembly its Feasibility Evaluation of Electric Vehicle Charging
20 Stations, Electric Aircraft Charging Stations, and Renewable Energy

1 Generating Plants at State-Owned Airports Pursuant to Act 108 of 2018. The
2 Evaluation noted that State-owned airports are suitable sites for electric vehicle
3 charging stations and electric aircraft charging stations, and that solar
4 photovoltaic installations can be compatible with airport operations.

5 Sec. 2. DEFINITIONS

6 For purposes of this act:

7 (1) “Master permit” means all permits necessary to construct
8 infrastructure, buildings, and related assets in support of general aviation,
9 commercial, and manufacturing enterprises at State-owned airports, excluding
10 activities associated with runway expansion and other aviation-specific
11 activities. Master permits include any applicable Act 250 permit, any
12 applicable permits issued by the Agencies of Natural Resources and of
13 Transportation, the Division of Fire Safety, the Natural Resources Board, and
14 the Public Utility Commission.

15 (2) “Master plan” means a comprehensive plan to construct
16 infrastructure, buildings, and related assets in support of general aviation,
17 commercial, and manufacturing enterprises at State-owned airports, excluding
18 activities associated with runway expansion and other aviation-specific
19 activities. Master plans may be developed by the Agencies of Transportation
20 and of Commerce and Community Development for the review and approval
21 by the Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, the

1 Natural Resources Board, and the Public Utility Commission prior to the
2 submission of master permit applications. Master plans shall identify all
3 relevant natural resource features and constraints at the project site, include
4 detailed site plans and proposals for the construction and operation of
5 infrastructure, buildings, and related assets, and demonstrate how natural
6 resource impacts are avoided, minimized, and mitigated in compliance with
7 existing State law.

8 (3) “Renewable energy” shall have the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A.
9 § 8002.

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

13 Sec. 3. APPLICATIONS FOR MASTER PERMITS

14 (a) The Agencies of Commerce and Community Development and of
15 Transportation are encouraged to obtain, as swiftly as practicable, master
16 permits for growth, development, and facility upgrades at each State-owned
17 airport. Master permits shall include charging stations for electrified aircraft
18 and, when practical, renewable energy generating plants.

19 (b) In processing master permits for State-owned airports sought by the
20 Agencies of Commerce and Community Development and of Transportation
21 State agencies, departments, commissions, and boards may waive permit fees

1 for all necessary master permits provided that a master plan was reviewed and
2 approved prior to the submission of master permit applications.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.