

Advanced Air Mobility Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper

House Sponsor: Kay J. Christofferson

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LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses provisions related to advanced air mobility.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- directs the Department of Transportation to conduct a community outreach and education campaign;
- directs the Department of Transportation to develop an advanced air mobility toolkit;
- defines terms and modifies definitions related to advanced air mobility; and
- makes other technical changes related to advanced air mobility.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

**72-10-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 483

**72-10-109**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 483, 485

ENACTS:

**72-1-218**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**72-10-703**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **72-1-218** is enacted to read:

**72-1-218 . Advanced air mobility community outreach.**

The department shall conduct a community outreach and public education campaign that:

- (1) educates the public regarding advanced air mobility, including:
  - (a) the information and findings of relevant studies and reports that the department conducts;
  - (b) potential use cases;
  - (c) potential benefits as a form of transportation;
  - (d) state-driven advanced air mobility initiatives;
  - (e) potential impacts on the economy, including job creation and other new opportunities; and
  - (f) potential phasing for establishing a robust advanced air mobility system;
- (2) provides and coordinates opportunities for the public to observe real world demonstrations;
- (3) coordinates with local advanced air mobility industry leaders and other groups in the state that are promoting and planning for advanced air mobility; and
- (4) provides information on how advanced air mobility could benefit and otherwise impact communities.

Section 2. Section **72-10-102** is amended to read:

**72-10-102 . Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Acrobatics" means the intentional maneuvers of an aircraft not necessary to air navigation.
- (2)(a) "Advanced air mobility system" means a system that transports individuals and property using piloted and unpiloted aircraft, including electric aircraft and electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, in controlled or uncontrolled airspace.
- (b) "Advanced air mobility system" includes each component of a system described in Subsection (2)(a), including:
  - (i) the aircraft, including payload;
  - (ii) communications equipment;
  - (iii) navigation equipment;
  - (iv) controllers;
  - (v) support equipment;
  - (vi) an authoritative supplemental data service provider;
  - (vii) flight information exchange; and
  - ~~(vi)~~ (viii) remote and autonomous functions.

- (3) "Aerial transit corridor" means an airspace volume defining a three-dimensional route segment with performance requirements to operate within or to cross where tactical air traffic control separation services are not provided.
- (4) "Aeronautics" means transportation by aircraft, air instruction, the operation, repair, or maintenance of aircraft, and the design, operation, repair, or maintenance of airports, or other air navigation facilities.
- (5) "Aeronautics instructor" means any individual engaged in giving or offering to give instruction in aeronautics, flying, or ground subjects, either with or without:
- (a) compensation or other reward;
  - (b) advertising the occupation;
  - (c) calling [~~his~~] the instructor's facilities an air school, or any equivalent term; or
  - (d) employing or using other instructors.
- (6) "Aircraft" means any contrivance now known or in the future invented, used, or designed for navigation of or flight in the air.
- (7) "Air instruction" means the imparting of aeronautical information by any aviation instructor or in any air school or flying club.
- (8) "Airport" means any area of land, water, or both, that:
- (a) is used or is made available for landing and takeoff;
  - (b) provides facilities for the shelter, supply, and repair of aircraft, and handling of passengers and cargo;
  - (c) meets the minimum requirements established by the department as to size and design, surface, marking, equipment, and operation; and
  - (d) includes all areas shown as part of the airport in the current airport layout plan as approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.
- (9) "Airport authority" means a political subdivision of the state, other than a county or municipality, that is authorized by statute to operate an airport.
- (10) "Airport operator" means a municipality, county, or airport authority that owns or operates a commercial airport.
- (11)(a) "Airport revenue" means:
- (i) all fees, charges, rents, or other payments received by or accruing to an airport operator for any of the following reasons:
    - (A) revenue from air carriers, tenants, lessees, purchasers of airport properties, airport permittees making use of airport property and services, and other parties;

(B) revenue received from the activities of others or the transfer of rights to others relating to the airport, including revenue received:

(I) for the right to conduct an activity on the airport or to use or occupy airport property;

(II) for the sale, transfer, or disposition of airport real or personal property, or any interest in that property, including transfer through a condemnation proceeding;

(III) for the sale of, or the sale or lease of rights in, mineral, natural, or agricultural products or water owned by the airport operator to be taken from the airport; and

(IV) for the right to conduct an activity on, or for the use or disposition of, real or personal property or any interest in real or personal property owned or controlled by the airport operator and used for an airport-related purpose but not located on the airport; or

(C) revenue received from activities conducted by the airport operator whether on or off the airport, which is directly connected to the airport operator's ownership or operation of the airport; and

(ii) state and local taxes on aviation fuel.

(b) "Airport revenue" does not include amounts received by an airport operator as passenger facility fees pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Sec. 40117.

(12) "Air school" means any person engaged in giving, offering to give, or advertising, representing, or holding ~~himself~~ itself out as giving, with or without compensation or other reward, instruction in aeronautics, flying, or ground subjects, or in more than one of these subjects.

(13) "Airworthiness" means conformity with requirements prescribed by the Federal Aviation Administration regarding the structure or functioning of aircraft, engine, parts, or accessories.

(14) "Authoritative supplemental data service provider" means a third party provider of unmanned aircraft system traffic management services that is approved by the department and supplies specialized data to an unmanned aircraft system service supplier or to an unmanned aircraft system operator for a variety of uses.

~~[(14)]~~ (15) "Civil aircraft" means any aircraft other than a public aircraft.

~~[(15)]~~ (16) "Commercial aircraft" means aircraft used for commercial purposes.

~~[(16)]~~ (17) "Commercial airport" means a landing area, landing strip, or airport that may be

used for commercial operations.

~~[(17)]~~ (18) "Commercial flight operator" means a person who conducts commercial operations.

~~[(18)]~~ (19) "Commercial operations" means:

(a) any operations of an aircraft for compensation or hire or any services performed incidental to the operation of any aircraft for which a fee is charged or compensation is received, including the servicing, maintaining, and repairing of aircraft, the rental or charter of aircraft, the operation of flight or ground schools, the operation of aircraft for the application or distribution of chemicals or other substances, and the operation of aircraft for hunting and fishing; or

(b) the brokering or selling of any of these services; but

(c) does not include any operations of aircraft as common carriers certificated by the federal government or the services incidental to those operations.

~~[(19)]~~ (20) "Correctional facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-16b-102.

~~[(20)]~~ (21) "Dealer" means any person who is actively engaged in the business of flying for demonstration purposes, or selling or exchanging aircraft, and who has an established place of business.

~~[(21)]~~ (22) "Experimental aircraft" means:

(a) any aircraft designated by the Federal Aviation Administration or the military as experimental and used solely for the purpose of experiments, or tests regarding the structure or functioning of aircraft, engines, or their accessories; and

(b) any aircraft designated by the Federal Aviation Administration as:

(i) being custom or amateur built; and

(ii) used for recreational, educational, or display purposes.

~~[(22)]~~ (23) "Flight" means any kind of locomotion by aircraft while in the air.

(24) "Flight information exchange" means a model or system that allows for the consistent exchange of flying data between an unmanned aircraft system traffic management system and an unmanned aircraft system operator or aircraft to facilitate the coordination of flights.

~~[(23)]~~ (25) "Flying club" means five or more persons who for neither profit nor reward own, lease, or use one or more aircraft for the purpose of instruction, pleasure, or both.

~~[(24)]~~ (26) "Glider" means an aircraft heavier than air, similar to an airplane, but without a power plant.

- 164     ~~[(25)]~~ (27) "Mechanic" means a person who constructs, repairs, adjusts, inspects, or  
165     overhauls aircraft, engines, or accessories.
- 166     ~~[(26)]~~ (28) "Navigable airspace" means the same as that term is defined in 49 U.S.C. Sec.  
167     40102.
- 168     ~~[(27)]~~ (29) "Parachute jumper" means any person who has passed the required test for  
169     jumping with a parachute from an aircraft, and has passed an examination showing that [  
170     he] the jumper possesses the required physical and mental qualifications for the jumping.
- 171     ~~[(28)]~~ (30) "Parachute rigger" means any person who has passed the required test for  
172     packing, repairing, and maintaining parachutes.
- 173     ~~[(29)]~~ (31) "Passenger aircraft" means aircraft used for transporting persons, in addition to  
174     the pilot or crew, with or without their necessary personal belongings.
- 175     ~~[(30)]~~ (32) "Person" means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, or  
176     association of individuals.
- 177     ~~[(31)]~~ (33) "Pilot" means any person who operates the controls of an aircraft while in-flight.
- 178     ~~[(32)]~~ (34) "Primary glider" means any glider that has a gliding angle of less than 10 to one.
- 179     ~~[(33)]~~ (35) "Public aircraft" means an aircraft used exclusively in the service of any  
180     government or of any political subdivision, including the government of the United  
181     States, of the District of Columbia, and of any state, territory, or insular possession of  
182     the United States, but not including any government-owned aircraft engaged in carrying  
183     persons or goods for commercial purposes.
- 184     ~~[(34)]~~ (36) "Reckless flying" means the operation or piloting of any aircraft recklessly, or in  
185     a manner as to endanger the property, life, or body of any person, due regard being  
186     given to the prevailing weather conditions, field conditions, and to the territory being  
187     flown over.
- 188     ~~[(35)]~~ (37) "Registration number" means the number assigned by the Federal Aviation  
189     Administration to any aircraft, whether or not the number includes a letter or letters.
- 190     ~~[(36)]~~ (38) "Roadable aircraft" means an aircraft capable of taking off and landing from a  
191     suitable airfield and is also designed to be driven on a highway as a conveyance.
- 192     ~~[(37)]~~ (39) "Secondary glider" means any glider that has a gliding angle between 10 to one  
193     and 16 to one, inclusive.
- 194     ~~[(38)]~~ (40) "Soaring glider" means any glider that has a gliding angle of more than 16 to one.
- 195     (41) "Unmanned aircraft system service supplier" means a service supplier that:  
196     (a) relays flight information between an unmanned aircraft system operator and a flight  
197     management system; and

(b) provides information that supports unmanned aircraft system operations and assists with strategic deconfliction by an unmanned aircraft system traffic management system.

~~[(39)]~~ (42) "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft that is:

- (a) capable of sustaining flight; and
- (b) operated with no possible direct human intervention from on or within the aircraft.

~~[(40)]~~ (43) "Unmanned aircraft system" means the entire system used to operate an unmanned aircraft, including:

- (a) the unmanned aircraft, including payload;
- (b) communications equipment;
- (c) navigation equipment;
- (d) controllers;
- (e) support equipment; and
- (f) autopilot functionality.

~~[(41)]~~ (44) "Unmanned aircraft system traffic management" means a traffic management ecosystem for uncontrolled operations, including unmanned aircraft systems, that is separate from, but complementary to, the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic management system.

~~[(42)]~~ (45) "Vertiport" means an area of land, or a structure, used or intended to be used for electric, hydrogen, and hybrid vertical aircraft landings and takeoffs, including associated buildings and facilities.

Section 3. Section **72-10-109** is amended to read:

**72-10-109 . Certificate of registration of aircraft required -- Exceptions.**

- (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a person may not operate, pilot, or navigate, or cause or authorize to be operated, piloted, or navigated within this state any civil aircraft operating in this state for 181 or more days within any consecutive 12-month period unless the aircraft has a current certificate of registration issued by the department.
- (2) The state registration requirement under Subsection (1) does not apply to:
  - (a) aircraft licensed by a foreign country with which the United States has a reciprocal agreement covering the operations of the registered aircraft;
  - (b) a non-passenger-carrying flight solely for inspection or test purposes authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration to be made without the certificate of registration;
  - or
  - (c) aircraft operating under 14 C.F.R. Part 121, with a maximum takeoff weight

232 exceeding 35,000 pounds.

- 233 (3) Beginning on January 1, 2025, a person may not operate in this state an unmanned  
234 aircraft system or an advanced air mobility aircraft for commercial operation for which  
235 certification is required under ~~[14 C.F.R. Part 107 or 135]~~ federal rule unless the aircraft  
236 has a current certificate of registration issued by the department.
- 237 (4) The department shall, on or before December 31 of each calendar year, provide to the  
238 State Tax Commission a list of each aircraft for which a current certificate of registration  
239 is issued by the department under Subsection (1).

240 Section 4. Section **72-10-703** is enacted to read:

241 **72-10-703 . Advanced air mobility toolkit.**

- 242 (1) As used in this section, "political subdivision" means the same as that term is defined in  
243 Section 72-10-401.
- 244 (2) On or before July 1, 2026, the department shall:
- 245 (a) develop a toolkit for a political subdivision to address advanced air mobility,  
246 including:
- 247 (i) model ordinances governing advanced air mobility;  
248 (ii) best practices; and  
249 (iii) available resources that can assist the political subdivision in developing and  
250 implementing advanced air mobility policy;
- 251 (b) regularly maintain and update the toolkit; and  
252 (c) make the toolkit publicly available on the department's website.
- 253 (3) The department may not require a political subdivision to adopt or implement any  
254 portion of the advanced air mobility toolkit.

255 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

256 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.