

House Bill 1504 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Camp of the 135th, Mathiak of the 74th, Dickey of the 145th, Crowe of the 118th, Knight of the 134th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To create and establish the Griffin-Spalding County Area Regional Airport Authority, a new
2 regional airport authority in and for the County of Spalding, the City of Griffin, the County
3 of Butts, the County of Lamar, the County of Pike, and the County of Monroe; to authorize
4 such authority to acquire, construct, equip, maintain, operate, own, and improve airports and
5 landing fields for the use of aircraft which shall include related buildings, equipment, and the
6 usual and convenient facilities appertaining to such undertaking; to authorize the authority
7 to acquire, lease, own, and hold a fee simple title, or any interest therein, to all necessary
8 property therefor, both real and personal, within and outside the confines of Spalding County
9 and to convey, lease, and sell any and all such facilities including real property; to confer
10 powers and to impose duties on the authority; to provide for the membership and for the
11 appointment of members of the authority and their term of tenure and their compensation;
12 to authorize the authority to contract with others, both within and outside the confines of the
13 aforementioned counties, pertaining to airports and landing fields for the use of aircraft and
14 to execute leases of such facilities and to do all things deemed necessary or convenient for
15 the operation of such undertaking; to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds or obligations
16 of the authority payable from the revenues, tolls, fees, charges, and earnings of the authority,
17 including, but not limited to, earnings derived from leases and the use of the facilities, to pay
18 the costs of such undertakings and to authorize the collection and pledging of the revenues

19 and earnings of the authority for the payment of such bonds or obligations or to secure the
20 payment thereof by contract, mortgage, deed to secure debt, security deed note, or trust deed
21 and to define the rights of the holders of such bonds and securities; to provide that no liability
22 or debt against the aforementioned city or counties shall be incurred in the exercise of any
23 powers granted by this Act; to make the bonds, securities, or obligations of the authority
24 exempt from taxation; to authorize the issuance of refunding bonds, securities, or other
25 obligations; to provide that such bonds, securities, or other obligations be validated as
26 authorized by the "Revenue Bond Law"; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting
27 laws; and for other purposes.

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

29 **SECTION 1.**

30 Short title.

31 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Griffin-Spalding County Area Regional
32 Airport Authority Act."

33 **SECTION 2.**

34 Griffin-Spalding County Area Regional Airport Authority; creation.

35 There is created a body corporate and politic to be known as the Griffin-Spalding County
36 Area Regional Airport Authority, which shall be deemed to be a political subdivision of the
37 State of Georgia and a public corporation by that name, style, and title, and said body may
38 contract and be contracted with, bring and defend actions, implead and be impleaded, and
39 complain and defend in all courts of law and equity, except that the authority of the trustee
40 acting under the trust indenture herein provided for shall in no event be liable for any torts

41 committed by any of the officers, agents, and employees of the authority. The authority shall
42 have perpetual existence.

43 **SECTION 3.**

44 Membership.

45 The Griffin-Spalding County Area Regional Airport Authority shall be composed of 11
46 members who shall be appointed by the governing authorities of the County of Spalding,
47 City of Griffin, County of Butts, County of Lamar, County of Pike, and County of Monroe
48 as hereinafter set out. Within 60 days after the approval of this Act, it shall be the duty of
49 said governing authorities to appoint the membership of the authority. The authority shall
50 be composed of 11 members to be designated as Post No. 1, Post No. 2, Post No. 3, Post No.
51 4, Post No. 5, Post No. 6, Post No. 7, Post No. 8, Post No. 9, Post No. 10, and Post No. 11.
52 The County Manager of Spalding County or designee shall be appointed to Post No. 1. The
53 City Manager for the City of Griffin or designee shall be appointed to Post No. 2. The
54 County Manager of Butts County or designee shall be appointed to Post No. 3. The County
55 Manager of Lamar County or designee shall be appointed to Post No. 4. The County
56 Manager of Pike County or designee shall be appointed to Post No. 5. The County Manager
57 of Monroe County or designee shall be appointed to Post No. 6. The member from Post No.
58 7 shall be appointed by the governing authority of Spalding County, and its initial
59 appointment shall be the same as its current appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County
60 Airport Authority for Post No. 5, for a term which shall expire on December 31, 2024, or
61 when his or her successor is appointed and qualified. The member from Post No. 8 shall be
62 appointed by the governing authority of the City of Griffin, and its initial appointment shall
63 be the same as its current appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for
64 Post No. 6, for a term which shall expire on December 31, 2025, or when his or her successor
65 is appointed and qualified. The member from Post No. 9 shall be appointed by the governing

66 authority of Spalding County, and its initial appointment shall be the same as its current
67 appointment to the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for Post No. 7, for a term
68 which shall expire on December 31, 2026, or when his or her successor is appointed and
69 qualified. The member from Post No. 10 shall be appointed by the governing authority of
70 the City of Griffin, and its initial appointment shall be the same as its current appointment
71 to the Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for Post No. 8, for a term which shall
72 expire on December 31, 2027, or when his or her successor is appointed and qualified. The
73 member from Post No. 11 shall be appointed by the governing authority of the City of
74 Griffin, and its initial appointment shall be the same as its current appointment to the
75 Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority for Post No. 9, for a term which shall expire on
76 December 31, 2028, or when his or her successor is appointed and qualified; thereafter, such
77 member from Post No. 11 shall be appointed to a full four-year term by the governing
78 authority of Spalding County. Future appointments to Post No. 11 shall alternate between
79 the governing authority of the City of Griffin and the governing authority of Spalding
80 County. For Posts No. 7 through 11, the term of each member shall be four years and until
81 a successor is appointed and qualified, except that the initial terms shall be as aforesaid.
82 Following initial appointments, vacancies in each post, other than Post No. 11, shall be filled
83 by the governing authority making the initial appointment.

84 SECTION 4.

85 Meetings.

86 The authority shall hold its organizational meeting on April 30, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. in the
87 City Courtroom, One Griffin Center, 100 S. Hill Street, Griffin, Georgia. Notice of such
88 meeting shall be given to the local organ of each county not less than 15 days prior thereto,
89 and a notice shall be posted on the website for each county and the City of Griffin. The
90 authority shall meet at such times as may be necessary to transact the business coming before

91 it, but not less than quarterly. All meetings shall be called, noticed, and conducted in
92 accordance with Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., the "Open Meetings Law." At its
93 organizational meeting and its first regular meeting in January of each year thereafter, the
94 authority shall elect one of its members as its chairperson and another member as
95 secretary-treasurer. It shall be the duty of the secretary-treasurer to prepare or oversee the
96 preparation of written minutes of all meetings of the authority. Only one person shall hold
97 the office of secretary-treasurer. These officers shall be elected for a term ending on
98 December 31 of the year in which they were elected or until their successors are elected and
99 qualified. Five members of the authority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all
100 business coming before it. The members of the authority may be compensated as determined
101 from time to time by said governing authorities; however, it is expressly provided that they
102 shall be reimbursed for all actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred in the
103 performance of their duties.

104 **SECTION 5.**

105 Vacancies in office.

106 In the event of a vacancy on the authority by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise, the
107 vacancy shall be filled by the governing authority which appointed such member, and the
108 person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

109 **SECTION 6.**

110 Definitions.

111 (a) As used in this Act, the term:

112 (1) "Authority" means the "Griffin-Spalding County Area Regional Airport Authority"
113 created in Section 2 of this Act.

114 (2) "Cost of the project" means the cost of construction; the cost of all lands, properties,
115 rights, easements, and franchises acquired; the cost of all machinery, equipment,
116 financing charges, and interest prior to and during construction; the cost of engineering,
117 architectural, fiscal, and legal expenses; the cost of plans and specifications; and such
118 other expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the financing herein authorized, the
119 construction or improvement of any project, and the placing of the same in operation.
120 Any obligation or expense incurred for any of the foregoing purposes shall be regarded
121 as a part of the cost of the project and may be paid or reimbursed as such out of any funds
122 of the authority including the proceeds from any revenue bonds issued under the
123 provisions of this Act for any such project or projects.

124 (3) "Project" means and includes the leasing, acquisition, construction, equipping,
125 maintenance, improving, and operation of public airports and landing fields for the use
126 of aircraft, related buildings, and the usual and convenient facilities appertaining to such
127 undertakings; extensions and improvements of such facilities; the acquisition of necessary
128 property, both real and personal; and the lease and sale of any part of or all of such
129 facilities, including real and personal property, so as to assure the efficient and proper
130 development, maintenance, and operation of such airports and landing fields for the use
131 of aircraft, deemed by the authority to be necessary, convenient, or desirable for the
132 operation of such airports and landing fields anywhere within Spalding County.

133 (4) "Revenue bonds," "bonds," or "obligations" mean revenue bonds as defined and
134 provided for in Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond
135 Law," and such type of obligations may be issued by the authority as authorized under
136 said "Revenue Bond Law" and any amendments thereto, and in addition shall also mean
137 obligations of the authority the issuance of which are hereinafter authorized in this Act.

138 (b) Any project shall be deemed "self-liquidating" if, in the judgment of the authority, the
139 revenues and earnings to be derived by the authority therefrom and all properties used,
140 leased, and sold in connection therewith will be sufficient to pay the cost of constructing,

141 operating, maintaining, repairing, improving, and extending the project and to pay the
142 principal and interest of the revenue bonds which may be issued to finance, in whole or in
143 part, the cost of such project or projects.

144 **SECTION 7.**

145 Powers.

146 (a) The authority shall have power:

147 (1) To have a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;

148 (2) To acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise and to hold, lease, and, subject to review
149 and approval by the Federal Aviation Administration, dispose of real and personal
150 property of every kind and character for its corporate purposes;

151 (3) To acquire in its own name by purchase, gift, or otherwise on such terms and
152 conditions and in such manner as it may deem proper, real property or rights or easements
153 therein or franchises necessary or convenient for its corporate purposes, and to use the
154 same so long as its corporate existence shall continue, and to lease or make contracts with
155 respect to the use of or disposition of the same in any manner it deems to the best
156 advantage of the authority;

157 (4) To appoint, select, and employ officers and employees, or, in the alternative, the
158 authority may contract with the City of Griffin for its officers and employees or may
159 contract with the city for personnel services and benefits, including payroll, insurance,
160 and retirement programs. The authority may enter into contracts with consultants and
161 independent contractors, including engineering, architectural, and construction experts,
162 fiscal agents, and attorneys, and fix their respective compensation;

163 (5) To make contracts, leases, and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient
164 including contracts for construction of projects or leases of projects or contracts with
165 respect to the use of projects which it causes to be erected or acquired and any and all

166 persons, firms, and corporations and any and all political subdivisions, departments,
167 institutions, or agencies of the state are authorized to enter into contracts, leases, or
168 agreements with the authority upon such terms and for such purposes as they may deem
169 advisable; the authority is further granted the authority to make contracts, leases, and to
170 execute all instruments necessary or convenient with the United States government or any
171 agency or department thereof concerning the projects of the authority, subject to the
172 rights and interests of the holder of any of the bonds or obligations authorized to be
173 issued hereunder, and by the resolution or trust indenture of the authority authorizing the
174 issuance of any of its bonds or obligations as provided for in this Act;

175 (6) To construct, erect, acquire, own, repair, remodel, maintain, add to, extend, improve,
176 equip, operate, and manage projects, as hereinabove defined, the cost of any such project
177 to be paid in whole or in part from the proceeds of revenue bonds or other funds of the
178 authority or from such proceeds or other funds and any grant from the United States of
179 America, State of Georgia, County of Spalding, City of Griffin, or any agency or
180 instrumentality thereof;

181 (7) To accept loans and grants, or to accept loans or grants of money or materials or
182 property of any kind from the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality
183 or political subdivision thereof or from any other source, upon such terms and conditions
184 as the United States of America or such agency or instrumentality or other source may
185 impose;

186 (8) To accept loans and grants, or to accept loans or grants of money or materials or
187 property of any kind from the State of Georgia or any agency or instrumentality or
188 political subdivision thereof or from any other source, upon such terms and conditions
189 as the State of Georgia or such agency or instrumentality or political subdivision or any
190 other source may impose;

191 (9) To borrow money for any of its corporate purposes and to execute evidence of such
192 indebtedness by promissory notes, or otherwise, and to secure the same and to issue

193 negotiable revenue bonds payable solely from funds pledged for that purpose, and to
194 provide for the payment of the same and for the rights of the holders thereof;

195 (10) To exercise any power usually possessed by private corporations performing similar
196 functions, which is not in conflict with the Constitution and laws of this state, except the
197 right of eminent domain;

198 (11) The authority and the trustee acting under the trust indenture are specifically
199 authorized from time to time, subject to review and approval by the Federal Aviation
200 Administration, to sell, lease, grant, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any surplus
201 property, both real or personal, or interest therein not required in the normal operation of
202 and usable in the furtherance of the purpose for which the authority was created;

203 (12) To do all things necessary or convenient to exercise and carry out the powers
204 especially given in this Act;

205 (13) To make rules and bylaws for the orderly operation of the authority; and

206 (14) To request the city or county to exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire
207 any private real property or any rights or interests therein including any easements, as
208 necessary or convenient for the accomplishment of the purposes of this Act, in
209 accordance with the provisions of any and all existing laws applicable to the exercise of
210 such power. The authority shall pay the condemning authority for any property
211 condemned under this power, including legal fees and expenses (such as surveys and
212 appraisals), from its own funds and in proceedings to condemn pursuant to this section,
213 the court having jurisdiction of the suit, action, or proceeding may enter such orders
214 regarding the payment for such property or interest therein as may be fair and just to the
215 city or county, the authority, and the owners of the property being condemned. Any such
216 procedure may suggest the method of payment by the authority to persons who shall own
217 or have an interest in the property.

218 (b) The authority, notwithstanding any other provision herein to the contrary, is authorized
219 to exercise each and every power conferred upon it by this Act, specifically including the

220 issuance of revenue bonds, both within and outside the confines of Spalding County, and to
221 contract with any other entity, governmental or otherwise, for the joint acquisition,
222 construction, use, or operation of airports and related facilities outside the limits of Spalding
223 County. Prior to exercising any of said powers outside the limits of Spalding County, said
224 authority shall be required to obtain the approval of the governing authorities of both the City
225 of Griffin and Spalding County.

226 **SECTION 8.**

227 Revenue bonds.

228 The authority, or any authority or body which has or which may in the future succeed to the
229 powers, duties, and liabilities vested in the authority created hereby, shall have power and
230 is authorized at one time, or from time to time, to provide by resolution for the issuance of
231 negotiable revenue bonds, for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost as herein
232 defined of any one or more projects. The principal and interest of such revenue bonds shall
233 be payable solely from the special fund herein provided for such payment. The bonds of
234 each issue shall be dated, shall bear interest at such rate or rates as may be authorized by the
235 authority from time to time, shall be payable as provided by resolution of the authority, shall
236 mature at such time or times not exceeding 30 years from their date or dates, shall be payable
237 in such medium of payment as to both principal and interest as may be determined by the
238 authority, and may be made redeemable before maturity at the option of the authority, at such
239 price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the authority in the
240 resolution providing for the issuance of the bonds. Such revenue bonds or obligations shall
241 be issued pursuant to and in conformity with Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the
242 O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law," and all procedures pertaining to such issuance and the
243 conditions thereof shall be the same as those contained in said "Revenue Bond Law" and any
244 amendments thereof.

245 **SECTION 9.**

246 Form, denominations, registration, place of payment.

247 The authority shall determine the form of the bonds, shall fix the denomination or
248 denominations of the bonds, and the place or places of payment of principal and interest
249 thereof, which may be at any bank or trust company within or outside the state. The bonds
250 may be issued in coupon or registered form, or both, as the authority may determine, and
251 provision may be made for the registration of any coupon bond as to principal alone and also
252 as to both the principal and interest.

253 **SECTION 10.**

254 Signatures, seal.

255 In case any officer whose signature shall appear on any bonds or whose facsimile signature
256 shall appear on any coupon shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of such bonds,
257 such signature shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes the same as if he or
258 she had remained in office until such delivery. All such bonds shall be signed by the
259 chairperson of the authority and attested by the secretary-treasurer of the authority, and the
260 official seal of the authority shall be affixed thereto, and any coupons attached thereto shall
261 bear the facsimile signatures of the chairperson and secretary-treasurer of the authority. Any
262 bond may be signed, sealed, and attested on behalf of the authority by such persons as at the
263 actual time of the execution of such bonds shall be duly authorized or hold the proper office,
264 although at the date of delivery and payment of such bonds such persons may not have been
265 so authorized or shall not have held such office.

266

SECTION 11.

267

Negotiability, exemption from taxation.

268

269

270

271

272

All revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall have and are declared to have all the qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the negotiable instrument law of the state. Such bonds are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose and the said bonds, their transfer, and the income thereof shall be exempt from all taxation within the state.

273

SECTION 12.

274

Sale, price.

275

276

The authority may sell such bonds in such manner and for such price as it may determine to be in the best interest of the authority.

277

SECTION 13.

278

Proceeds of bonds.

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

The proceeds of such bonds shall be used solely for the payment of the cost of the project or projects, and unless otherwise provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust indenture, additional bonds may in like manner be issued to provide the amount of any deficit for the cost of the project or projects which, unless otherwise provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust indenture, shall be deemed to be of the same issue and shall be entitled to payment from the same fund without preference or priority of the bonds first issued for the same purposes. If the proceeds of the bonds of any issue shall exceed the amount required for the purpose for which such bonds are issued, the surplus shall be paid into a sinking fund or used for additional construction

288 as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust
289 indenture.

290 **SECTION 14.**

291 Interim receipts and certificates or temporary bonds.

292 Prior to the preparation of definitive bonds, the authority may, under like restrictions, issue
293 interim receipts, interim certificates, or temporary bonds, with or without coupons
294 exchangeable for definitive bonds upon the issuance of the latter.

295 **SECTION 15.**

296 Replacement of lost or mutilated bonds.

297 The authority may also provide for the replacement of any bond which shall become
298 mutilated or be destroyed or lost.

299 **SECTION 16.**

300 Conditions precedent to issuance, object of issuance.

301 Such revenue bonds may be issued without any other proceedings or the happening of any
302 other conditions or things than those proceedings, conditions, and things which are specified
303 or required by this Act. In the discretion of the authority, revenue bonds of a single issue
304 may be issued for the purpose of any particular project. Any resolution providing for the
305 issuance of revenue bonds under the provisions of this Act shall become effective
306 immediately upon its passage and need not be published or posted, and any such resolution
307 may be passed at any regular or special or adjourned meeting of the authority by a majority
308 of the quorum as in this Act provided.

309

SECTION 17.

310

Credit not pledged.

311 Revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall not be deemed to constitute a
312 debt of either the City of Griffin or Spalding County, or any municipality therein, but such
313 bonds shall be payable solely from the fund hereinafter provided for and the issuance of such
314 revenue bonds shall not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the said city or county,
315 or any municipality therein, to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatever therefor or
316 to make any appropriation for such payment, and all such bonds shall contain recitals on their
317 face covering substantially the foregoing provisions of this section.

318

SECTION 18.

319

Trust indenture as security.

320 In the discretion of the authority, any issue of such revenue bonds may be secured by a trust
321 indenture by and between the authority and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust
322 company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or outside of the state. Such
323 trust indenture may pledge or assign fees, tolls, revenues, and earnings to be received by the
324 authority, including the proceeds derived from the sale from time to time of any surplus
325 property of the authority, both real and personal. Either the resolution providing for the
326 issuance of revenue bonds or such trust indenture may contain such provisions for protecting
327 and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders as may be reasonable and proper
328 and not in violation of law, including covenants setting forth the duties of the authority in
329 relation to the acquisition of property, the construction of the project, the maintenance,
330 operation, repair, and insuring of the property, and the custody, safeguarding, and application
331 of all moneys, including the proceeds derived from the sale or lease of property of the
332 authority, both real and personal, and may also provide that any project shall be constructed

333 and paid for under the supervision and approval of consulting engineers or architects
334 employed or designated by the authority, and satisfactory to the original purchasers of the
335 bonds issued therefor and may also require that the security given by contractors and by any
336 depository of the proceeds of the bonds or revenues or other moneys be satisfactory to such
337 purchasers, and may also contain provisions concerning the conditions, if any, upon which
338 additional revenue bonds may be issued. It shall be lawful for any bank or trust company
339 incorporated under the laws of this state to act as such depository and to furnish such
340 indemnifying bonds or pledge such securities as may be required by the authority. Such
341 indenture may set forth the rights and remedies of the bondholders and of the trustee and may
342 restrict the individual right of action of bondholders as is customary in trust indentures
343 securing bonds and debentures of corporations. In addition to the foregoing, such trust
344 indenture may contain such other provisions as the authority may deem reasonable and
345 proper for the security of the bondholders. All expenses incurred in carrying out such trust
346 indenture may be treated as a part of the cost of maintenance, operation, and repair of the
347 project affected by such indenture.

348 **SECTION 19.**

349 To whom proceeds of bonds shall be paid.

350 The authority shall, in the resolution providing for the issuance of revenue bonds or in the
351 trust indenture, provide for the payment of the proceeds of the sale of the bonds to any officer
352 or person who, or any agency, bank, or trust company which, shall act as trustee of such
353 funds to hold and apply the same to the purposes thereof, subject to such regulations as this
354 Act and such resolutions or trust indentures may provide.

355 **SECTION 20.**

356 Sinking fund.

357 The revenues, fees, tolls, and earnings derived from any particular project or projects,
358 regardless of whether or not such fees, earnings, and revenues were produced by a particular
359 project for which bonds have been issued and any moneys derived from the sale or lease of
360 any properties, both real and personal, of the authority, unless otherwise pledged and
361 allocated, may be pledged and allocated by the authority to the payment of the principal and
362 interest on such revenue bonds of the authority as the resolution authorizing the issuance of
363 the bonds or the trust instrument may provide, and such funds so pledged from whatever
364 source received, which said pledge may include funds received from one or more or all
365 sources, shall be set aside at regular intervals as may be provided in the resolution or trust
366 indenture into a sinking fund, which said sinking fund shall be pledged to, and charged with,
367 the payment of:

- 368 (1) The interest upon such revenue bonds as such interest shall fall due;
369 (2) The principal of the bonds as the same shall fall due;
370 (3) The necessary charges of a paying agent or agents for paying interest and principal;
371 (4) Any premium upon bonds retired by call or purchase as hereinabove provided; and
372 (5) Any other reasonable or necessary costs or expenses relating to such bond issue.

373 The use and disposition of such sinking fund shall be subject to such regulations as may be
374 provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of the revenue bonds or in the trust
375 indenture, however, except as may otherwise be provided in such resolution or trust
376 indenture, such sinking fund shall be a fund for the benefit of all revenue bonds without
377 distinction or priority of one over another. Subject to the provisions of the resolution
378 authorizing the issuance of the bonds or in the trust indenture, surplus moneys in the sinking
379 fund may be applied to the purchase or redemption of bonds and any such bonds so
380 purchased or redeemed shall forthwith be canceled and shall not again be issued.

381

SECTION 21.

382

Remedies of bondholders.

383 Any holder of revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act or any of the coupons
384 appertaining thereto, and the trustee under the trust indenture, if any, except to the extent the
385 rights herein given may be restricted by resolution passed before the issuance of the bonds
386 or by the trust indenture, may, either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus, or other
387 proceedings protect and enforce any and all rights under the laws of the State of Georgia or
388 granted hereunder or under such resolution or trust indenture, and may enforce and compel
389 performance of all duties required by this Act or by such resolution or trust indenture, to be
390 performed by the authority, or any officer thereof, including the fixing, charging, and
391 collecting of revenues, fees, tolls, and other charges for the use of the facilities and services
392 furnished.

393

SECTION 22.

394

Refunding bonds.

395 The authority is authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of revenue refunding
396 bonds of the authority for the purpose of refunding any revenue bonds issued under the
397 provisions of this Act and then outstanding, together with accrued interest thereon. The
398 issuance of such revenue refunding bonds, the maturities, and all other details thereof, the
399 rights of the holders thereof, and the duties of the authority in respect to the same shall be
400 governed by the foregoing provisions of this Act insofar as the same may be applicable.

401 **SECTION 23.**

402 Validation.

403 Bonds of the authority shall be confirmed and validated in accordance with said "Revenue
404 Bond Law." The petition for validation shall also make party defendant to such action any
405 municipality, county, authority, subdivision, or instrumentality of the State of Georgia or the
406 United States government or any department or agency of the United States government, if
407 subject to be sued, which has contracted with the authority for the services and facilities of
408 the project for which bonds are to be issued and sought to be validated and such
409 municipality, county, authority, subdivision, or instrumentality shall be required to show
410 cause, if any, why such contract or contracts and the terms and conditions thereof should not
411 be inquired into by the court and the validity of the terms thereof be determined and the
412 contract or contracts adjudicated as security for the payment of any such bonds of the
413 authority. The bonds when validated and the judgment of validation shall be final and
414 conclusive with respect to such bonds against the authority issuing the same, and any
415 municipality, county, authority, subdivision, or instrumentality of this state or the United
416 States government if a party to the validation proceedings, contracting with the said
417 Griffin-Spalding County Airport Authority.

418 **SECTION 24.**

419 Venue and jurisdiction.

420 Any action to protect or enforce any rights under the provisions of this Act or any suit or
421 action against such authority shall be brought in the Superior Court of Spalding County,
422 Georgia, and any action pertaining to validation of any bonds issued under the provisions of
423 this Act shall likewise be brought in said court.

424 **SECTION 25.**

425 Interest of bondholders protected.

426 While any of the bonds issued by the authority remain outstanding, the powers, duties, or
427 existence of said authority or of its officers, employees, or agents shall not be diminished or
428 impaired in any manner that will affect adversely the interest and rights of the holders of such
429 bonds, and no other entity, department, agency, or authority shall be created which will
430 compete with the authority to such an extent as to affect adversely the interest and rights of
431 the holders of such bonds and, upon the issuance of bonds hereunder, the provisions hereof
432 shall constitute a contract with the holders of such bonds.

433 **SECTION 26.**

434 Moneys received considered trust funds.

435 All moneys received pursuant to the authority of this Act, whether as proceeds from the sale
436 of revenue bonds, as grants or other contributions, or as revenues, income, fees, and earnings
437 shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this Act.

438 **SECTION 27.**

439 Purpose of the authority.

440 Without limiting the generality of any provisions of this Act, the general purpose of the
441 authority is declared to be that of acquiring, constructing, equipping, maintaining, improving,
442 and operating new regional public use, general aviation airports and landing fields for the use
443 of aircraft, including any related buildings and the usual and convenient facilities
444 appertaining to such undertakings and extensions and improvements of such facilities,
445 acquiring the necessary property therefor, both real and personal, and to lease or, subject to

446 review and approval by the Federal Aviation Administration, sell any or all of such facilities
447 including real property, and to do any and all things deemed by the authority necessary,
448 convenient, or desirable for and incident to the efficient and proper development and
449 operation of such types of undertakings.

450 **SECTION 28.**

451 Rates, charges, and revenues; use.

452 The authority is authorized to prescribe and fix and collect rates, fees, tolls, and charges, and
453 to revise, from time to time, and collect such rates, fees, tolls, and charges for the services,
454 facilities, or commodities furnished, including leases, concessions, or subleases of its lands
455 or facilities in accordance with assurances set forth in airport improvement and assistance
456 agreements entered into between the authority and the Federal Aviation Administration, the
457 Georgia Department of Transportation, or the United States Department of Transportation.
458 This authority assumes no liability for the operation and maintenance of the general aviation
459 airport currently located in Spalding County, Georgia designated as 6 Alpha 2. This
460 authority shall maintain a fee and rental structure for the use of its land and facilities
461 sufficient to make any airport or landing field operated by the authority as self-sustaining as
462 possible under the circumstances existing at the particular airport, consistent with the
463 obligation to operate such airports or landing fields for public use, on reasonable terms and
464 without unjust discrimination, to all types, kinds, and classes of aeronautical activities,
465 including commercial aeronautical activities offering services to the public at such airport
466 or landing field.

467

SECTION 29.

468

Rules and regulations for operation of projects.

469

470

471

472

473

474

475

476

477

It shall be the duty of the authority to prescribe rules and regulations for the operation of the project or projects constructed under the provisions of this Act, including the basis on which airports and landing fields for the use of aircraft shall be furnished. Before undertaking performance of any airport or landing field operations, the authority shall procure and maintain in force at all times sufficient liability insurance covering aviation related risks for their operations. At all times relevant hereto, the authority shall operate its airports and landing fields in accordance with grant assurances entered into with the Federal Aviation Administration, the Georgia Department of Transportation, or the United States Department of Transportation.

478

SECTION 30.

479

Powers declared supplemental and additional.

480

481

482

483

The foregoing sections of this Act shall be deemed to provide an additional and alternative method for the doing of the things authorized thereby and shall be regarded as supplemental and additional to powers conferred by other laws and shall not be regarded as in derogation of any powers now existing.

484

SECTION 31.

485

Liberal construction of Act.

486

487

This Act being for the purpose of promoting the health, morals, and general welfare of the citizens of the United States, of the State of Georgia, of Spalding, Butts, Lamar, Pike, and

488 Monroe Counties, and of the City of Griffin shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes
489 hereof.

490 **SECTION 32.**

491 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
492 without such approval.

493 **SECTION 33.**

494 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.