

TO THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 5-204 OF THIS TITLE TO ENCOURAGE, FOSTER, AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AERONAUTICS IN THE STATE; AND

(2) A REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE UNILATERAL ACTION OF ANY ONE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, BUT REQUIRES ACTION BY THE STATE THROUGH A STATE AGENCY THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS AND WILL ENSURE THAT DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE STATE AND THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF PARTICIPATING POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR THE STATE TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL SYSTEM OF REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICE THAT:

(1) PLACES MAXIMUM RELIANCE ON COMPETITIVE MARKET FORCES AND, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, IS FINANCIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT; AND

(2) TO THE EXTENT THAT SUPPLEMENTAL STATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NECESSARY, MAY BE SUBSIDIZED THROUGH A FOCUSED AND COORDINATED STATE PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND.

5-1303.

(A) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A REGIONAL AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF REGIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AND SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE THAT EFFECTIVELY LINKS TO THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ~~UNDER SERVED~~ UNDERSERVED REGIONS OF THE STATE THAT ARE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE.

(C) THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE, IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR PROPRIETARY POWERS AS AIRPORT OWNERS AND OPERATORS, POLICE POWERS OF LAND USE PLANNING AND ZONING, AND GENERAL AUTHORITY TO FOSTER AND PROMOTE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS, ARE ENCOURAGED TO COOPERATE WITH ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

5-1304.

(A) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY:

(1) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF DIVISION II OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, GRANT TO ANY PERSON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING, AS AGENT OF THE STATE OR OTHERWISE, SCHEDULED REGIONAL AIR SERVICE TO AND FROM ANY COMMUNITY OF THE STATE DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO BE IN NEED OF, AND CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING, SUCH AIR SERVICE;

(2) DETERMINE WHETHER, AND TO WHAT EXTENT, A PERSON GRANTED