

CHAPTER 98-310

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 3393

An act relating to air carriers; directing the Department of Management Services to evaluate the state contract for air carrier service for state employees, undertake a pilot program, and adopt purchasing guidelines; directing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to review the impact of the pilot program and report to the Legislature; authorizing the department to reinstate certain contracts under certain circumstances; directing Enterprise Florida, Inc., to complete a review of the impact of regional airports on economic development in the State of Florida; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Florida to attract and retain quality affordable air carrier service for its citizens, and

WHEREAS, dependable and affordable air service is an important factor in stimulating economic development and promoting efficient and accountable government service, and

WHEREAS, citizens require affordable and efficient access to state government and elected officials in the state capital to promote an open democracy, and

WHEREAS, safe and affordable air travel from the state capital to all parts of Florida is necessary to ensure the continued operation of state programs, and

WHEREAS, incentives need to be identified to attract and retain quality air service to the state capital from all major airports in Florida to meet the needs of government and industry, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the need to provide support to air carriers that provide this valuable service, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. State air carrier contract.—Pursuant to s. 287.042, Florida Statutes, the Department of Management Services shall analyze and evaluate the state contract for air carrier service for state employees to determine how to improve the quality, availability, and cost of air service to state employees and other citizens. The department shall undertake a pilot program for up to a 3-year period based on this analysis that shall include, but is not limited to, the suspension of any such contract and the provision of any incentives necessary to attract qualified air carriers flying within Florida to and from the state capital. In lieu of the provisions of s. 112.061(7)(a)2., Florida Statutes, and notwithstanding s. 287.042(2), Florida Statutes, or any law or rule to the contrary, in implementing this pilot program the Department of Management Services, in consultation with the

Department of Banking and Finance, shall adopt guidelines for good purchasing practices in acquiring air carrier services to and from the state capital. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall review the effects and fiscal impact of the pilot program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information on and analyses of additional costs incurred and savings realized by state agencies, including per diem, subsistence, productivity and time of the travelers, and cost of airfare. If, within 6 months after implementing such pilot program, the office determines that the travel costs to state government have increased by at least 20 percent, the department may reinstate any portion of the state contract. The office shall provide the Legislature with a preliminary report prior to the 1999 Regular Session, and annually thereafter prior to each regular session during the existence of the pilot program.

Section 2. Review of impact of regional airports.—Enterprise Florida, Inc., is directed to undertake and complete a review on the impact of regional airports on economic development in the State of Florida. The review shall contain, but is not limited to, findings on the impact of regional airports on the following: regional and local economies; regional and local economic development efforts; and new and expanding manufacturing facilities. A report, including the results of this review, shall be transmitted to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House no later than February 1, 1999.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1 of the year in which enacted.

Approved by the Governor May 29, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1998.