

State Opens Door for Publicly Funded Vertiports in Florida

HB 1093 – Rep. Leonard Spencer (SB 1362 – Sen. Gayle Harrell)

General Bill Summary

CS/CS/CS/HB 1093 passed the Legislature on March 10, 2026, and was ordered enrolled the same day. The bill adds vertiports and charging systems to the list of “qualifying projects” under Florida’s public-private partnership statute. It also revises the aviation financing statute so vertiport pads, safety zones, charging systems, grid upgrades, and resilience energy systems are included within “airport infrastructure.” Most significantly, the bill authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation to fund up to 100 percent of the cost of a public vertiport project when federal funds are unavailable, or up to 80 percent of the nonfederal share when federal funds are available. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

Potential County Impact

For counties, the bill primarily creates an opportunity rather than a direct mandate. Counties that own, operate, or support public-use airports may have a clearer pathway to pursue vertiport development, including through public-private partnership structures and potential FDOT participation in project costs. That could help reduce local capital exposure for counties interested in advanced air mobility infrastructure. Counties involved in airport planning, land use coordination, utility coordination, or economic development may also see more proposals related to vertiport siting and supporting infrastructure. If a county airport develops vertiport facilities, those assets would likely need to be addressed within existing airport infrastructure planning and maintenance practices. The House staff analysis states the bill authorizes, but does not require, additional FDOT funding and anticipates any such spending would be absorbed within available Work Program revenues. The bill does not itself impose a county funding requirement, but counties could face local planning, match, operational, or maintenance considerations depending on project design and FDOT participation decisions.

Effective Date

July 1, 2026.

Primary Statutory References

- s. 255.065, F.S.
- s. 332.007, F.S.