



# Legislative Council Staff

## Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 11/7/2016

### Bill Number

**Senate Bill 16-168**

### Sponsors

**Senator Roberts**  
**Representative Brown**

### Short Title

**Local Government From  
Adjoining State In Airport  
Authority**

### Research Analyst

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### Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 16, 2016, and took effect on August 10, 2016.

### Summary

This bill allows a county or municipality from an adjoining state to be part of a public airport authority in Colorado by authorizing a Colorado county or two or more counties and municipalities to enter into an agreement to operate an airport jointly. The airport authority must be created in Colorado and must use a legal newspaper in Colorado for the posting of official publications. Members of the board must be Colorado taxpayers and resolutions of the authority must not violate the adjoining state's laws.

### Background

**Public airport authorities.** The Public Airport Authority Act authorizes municipalities, counties, and the state of Colorado, through joint action, to form airport authorities for the purpose of acquiring and improving airports, air navigation facilities, and related facilities. A county may also form an airport authority independently under this act. The law allows the financing of the cost of airport acquisitions and improvements by the issuance of bonds or other obligations without the incurrance of an indebtedness by the state of Colorado, or by any of its political subdivisions. Alternatively, some political subdivisions have formed entities by intergovernmental agreement to oversee the operation of airports in their jurisdictions. Currently there are four active airport authorities where Colorado local governments have agreed to jointly operate an airport. These include the Greeley-Weld County airport authority, the Telluride Regional airport authority, the

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Grand Junction Regional airport authority, and the Arapahoe County public airport authority. All other state airports are operated by the individual county or municipality that they are located in. La Plata County is considering entering into an intergovernmental agreement with San Juan County in New Mexico to help fund improvements to the La Plata County Airport.

## Senate Action

**Senate Local Government Committee (March 29, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives of Colorado Counties, Inc. and the Colorado Municipal League spoke in support of the bill. The committee adopted Amendment L.002, which requires joint airport authorities be located in Colorado. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole and with a recommendation that it be placed on the consent calendar.

**Senate second reading (March 31, 2016).** The Senate adopted the Senate Local Government Committee report and passed the bill on second reading.

**Senate third reading (April 1, 2016).** The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

## House Action

**House Local Government Committee (April 13, 2016).** There was no testimony on the bill. The committee referred the bill with no amendments to the House Committee of the Whole.

**House second reading (April 15, 2016).** The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

**House third reading (April 18, 2016).** This House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.