

VAI Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) State Model Legislation

(1) SHORT TITLE. – This act may be cited as the “AAM Model Legislation”.

(2) DEFINITIONS. – As used in this act, the term:

“Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)” means an air transportation system primarily utilizing electric aircraft, including eVTOL and eCTOL aircraft to carry passengers, cargo, or provide services in an urban or regional setting, with a gross takeoff weight of 300 lbs or more.

“eVTOL” means electric vertical take-off and landing (aircraft)

“eCTOL” means electric conventional take-off and landing (aircraft)

“Powered-Lift Aircraft” means a heavier-than-air aircraft capable of vertical takeoff, vertical landing, and low speed flight that depends principally on engine-driven lift devices or engine thrust for the lift during these flight regimes and on nonrotating airfoil(s) for lift during horizontal flight."

(3) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AAM PLANNING –

The Department of Transportation (DOT) shall evaluate whether an advisory committee is necessary to support Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) planning within the state. If deemed necessary, the DOT shall establish a committee to review existing state laws and regulations and recommend any amendments required to facilitate AAM implementation. The committee shall include representatives from state aviation experts, the vertical and AAM industries, relevant state agencies, and other key stakeholders.

If the DOT determines that a committee is not needed, it shall still actively solicit input from industry stakeholders to inform AAM planning.

The DOT, or another designated state authority, shall conduct a fiscal assessment to identify existing resources, estimate future needs, and prioritize investments required for the effective implementation of AAM. Based on this assessment, state fiscal authorities shall allocate the necessary funding to support AAM initiatives.

The advisory committee/DOT shall:

- Designate a subject matter expert for AAM within the DOT as a resource for local and regional jurisdictions navigating advances in aviation technology, including electric powered-lift aircraft and electric aviation.
- Review existing state aviation standards and guidelines, airport facility planning, and compatibility guidance to ensure that the standards, guidelines, planning, and guidance are applicable to AAM.
- Provide local and regional jurisdictions with a guidebook and technical resources to support uniform planning and zoning language across the state related to powered-lift aircraft, electric aviation, and other advances in aviation technology.
- Estimate the required electrical generation and transmission capacity with the major state utilities, for the different implementation phases of AAM in the state.
- Coordinate with stakeholders to identify possible AAM transportation hubs throughout the State to support innovative point-to-point transportation options; and

- The DOT shall provide resources and assistance on AAM technology and infrastructure to local governments, regional councils, transportation planning organizations, the AAM industry, and other relevant entities to support integration of AAM innovation with community planning and promote AAM technology.

To ensure safe and consistent regulation of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft operations within this state, all provisions of this Act shall be interpreted in a manner that conforms to and is preempted by applicable federal law, including the Federal Aviation Act and regulations issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

As state DOTs plan for the implementation and integration of AAM technologies, alignment with the upcoming U.S. DOT National Strategy for AAM is essential. This national strategy will offer a comprehensive framework to guide federal, state, and local efforts, promoting cohesive development, interoperability, and efficient resource use across the transportation ecosystem.