



Ohio Revised Code

Section 4582.31 Powers of port authority.

Effective: March 31, 2021

Legislation: House Bill 312 - 133rd General Assembly

(A) A port authority created in accordance with section 4582.22 of the Revised Code may:

- (1) Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;
- (2) Adopt an official seal;
- (3) Maintain a principal office within its jurisdiction, and maintain such branch offices as it may require;
- (4) Acquire, construct, furnish, equip, maintain, repair, sell, exchange, lease to or from, or lease with an option to purchase, convey other interests in real or personal property, or any combination thereof, related to, useful for, or in furtherance of any authorized purpose and operate any property in connection with transportation, recreational, governmental operations, or cultural activities;
- (5) Straighten, deepen, and improve any channel, river, stream, or other water course or way which may be necessary or proper in the development of the facilities of a port authority;
- (6) Make available the use or services of any port authority facility to one or more persons, one or more governmental agencies, or any combination thereof;
- (7) Issue bonds or notes for the acquisition, construction, furnishing, or equipping of any port authority facility or other permanent improvement that a port authority is authorized to acquire, construct, furnish, or equip, in compliance with Chapter 133. of the Revised Code, except that such bonds or notes may only be issued pursuant to a vote of the electors residing within the area of jurisdiction of the port authority. The net indebtedness incurred by a port authority shall never exceed two per cent of the total value of all property within the territory comprising the port authority as listed and assessed for taxation.



- (8) Issue port authority revenue bonds beyond the limit of bonded indebtedness provided by law, payable solely from revenues as provided in section 4582.48 of the Revised Code, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of any port authority facility or facilities or parts thereof;
- (9) Apply to the proper authorities of the United States pursuant to appropriate law for the right to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones and establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones and to acquire, exchange, sell, lease to or from, lease with an option to purchase, or operate facilities, land, or property therefor in accordance with the "Foreign Trade Zones Act," 48 Stat. 998 (1934), 19 U.S.C. 81a to 81u;
- (10) Enjoy and possess the same rights, privileges, and powers granted municipal corporations under sections 721.04 to 721.11 of the Revised Code;
- (11) Maintain such funds as it considers necessary;
- (12) Direct its agents or employees, when properly identified in writing, and after at least five days' written notice, to enter upon lands within the confines of its jurisdiction in order to make surveys and examinations preliminary to location and construction of works for the purposes of the port authority, without liability of the port authority or its agents or employees except for actual damage done;
- (13) Promote, advertise, and publicize the port authority and its facilities; provide information to shippers and other commercial interests; and appear before rate-making authorities to represent and promote the interests of the port authority;
- (14) Adopt rules, not in conflict with general law, it finds necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under sections 4582.21 to 4582.54 of the Revised Code. Any such rule shall be posted at no less than five public places in the port authority, as determined by the board of directors, for a period of not fewer than fifteen days, and shall be available for public inspection at the principal office of the port authority during regular business hours. No person shall violate any lawful rule adopted and posted as provided in this division.
- (15) Do any of the following, in regard to any interests in any real or personal property, or any



combination thereof, including, without limitation, machinery, equipment, plants, factories, offices, and other structures and facilities related to, useful for, or in furtherance of any authorized purpose, for such consideration and in such manner, consistent with Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution, as the board in its sole discretion may determine:

- (a) Loan moneys to any person or governmental entity for the acquisition, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the property;
- (b) Acquire, construct, maintain, repair, furnish, and equip the property;
- (c) Sell to, exchange with, lease, convey other interests in, or lease with an option to purchase the same or any lesser interest in the property to the same or any other person or governmental entity;
- (d) Guarantee the obligations of any person or governmental entity.

A port authority may accept and hold as consideration for the conveyance of property or any interest therein such property or interests therein as the board in its discretion may determine, notwithstanding any restrictions that apply to the investment of funds by a port authority.

(16) Sell, lease, or convey other interests in real and personal property, and grant easements or rights-of-way over property of the port authority. The board of directors shall specify the consideration and any terms for the sale, lease, or conveyance of other interests in real and personal property. Any determination made by the board under this division shall be conclusive. The sale, lease, or conveyance may be made without advertising and the receipt of bids.

(17) Exercise the right of eminent domain to appropriate any land, rights, rights-of-way, franchises, easements, or other property, necessary or proper for any authorized purpose, pursuant to the procedure provided in sections 163.01 to 163.22 of the Revised Code, if funds equal to the appraised value of the property to be acquired as a result of such proceedings are available for that purpose. However, nothing contained in sections 4582.201 to 4582.59 of the Revised Code shall authorize a port authority to take or disturb property or facilities belonging to any agency or political subdivision of this state, public utility, cable operator, or common carrier, which property or facilities are necessary and convenient in the operation of the agency or political subdivision, public utility, cable



operator, or common carrier, unless provision is made for the restoration, relocation, or duplication of such property or facilities, or upon the election of the agency or political subdivision, public utility, cable operator, or common carrier, for the payment of compensation, if any, at the sole cost of the port authority, provided that:

(a) If any restoration or duplication proposed to be made under this section involves a relocation of the property or facilities, the new facilities and location shall be of at least comparable utilitarian value and effectiveness and shall not impair the ability of the public utility, cable operator, or common carrier to compete in its original area of operation;

(b) If any restoration or duplication made under this section involves a relocation of the property or facilities, the port authority shall acquire no interest or right in or to the appropriated property or facilities, except as provided in division (A)(15) of this section, until the relocated property or facilities are available for use and until marketable title thereto has been transferred to the public utility, cable operator, or common carrier.

As used in division (A)(17) of this section, "cable operator" has the same meaning as in the "Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984," Pub. L. No. 98-549, 98 Stat. 2780, 47 U.S.C. 522, as amended by the "Telecommunications Act of 1996," Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56.

(18)(a) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements and execute all instruments necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under sections 4582.21 to 4582.59 of the Revised Code.

(b) Except as provided in division (A)(18)(c) of this section or except when the port authority elects to construct a building, structure, or other improvement pursuant to a contract made with a construction manager at risk under sections 9.33 to 9.335 of the Revised Code or with a design-build firm under section 153.65 to 153.73 of the Revised Code, when the cost of a contract for the construction of any building, structure, or other improvement undertaken by a port authority involves an expenditure exceeding one hundred fifty thousand dollars and the port authority is the contracting entity, the port authority shall make a written contract after notice calling for bids for the award of the contract has been given by publication twice, with at least seven days between publications, in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the port authority or as provided in section 7.16 of the



Revised Code. Each such contract shall be let to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with section 9.312 of the Revised Code. Every contract shall be accompanied by or shall refer to plans and specifications for the work to be done, prepared for and approved by the port authority, and signed by an authorized officer of the port authority and by the contractor.

Each bid shall be awarded in accordance with sections 153.54, 153.57, and 153.571 of the Revised Code. The port authority may reject any and all bids.

(c) The board of directors by rule may provide criteria for the negotiation and award without competitive bidding of any contract as to which the port authority is the contracting entity for the construction of any building or structure or other improvement under any of the following circumstances:

(i) There exists a real and present emergency that threatens damage or injury to persons or property of the port authority or other persons, provided that a statement specifying the nature of the emergency that is the basis for the negotiation and award of a contract without competitive bidding shall be signed by the officer of the port authority that executes that contract at the time of the contract's execution and shall be attached to the contract.

(ii) A commonly recognized industry or other standard or specification does not exist and cannot objectively be articulated for the improvement.

(iii) The contract is for any energy conservation measure as defined in section 307.041 of the Revised Code.

(iv) With respect to material to be incorporated into the improvement, only a single source or supplier exists for the material.

(v) A single bid is received by the port authority after complying with the provisions of division (A)(18)(b) of this section.

(d)(i) If a contract is to be negotiated and awarded without competitive bidding for the reason set forth in division (A)(18)(c)(ii) of this section, the port authority shall publish a notice calling for



technical proposals twice, with at least seven days between publications, in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the port authority or as provided in section 7.16 of the Revised Code. After receipt of the technical proposals, the port authority may negotiate with and award a contract for the improvement to the proposer making the proposal considered to be the most advantageous to the port authority.

(ii) If a contract is to be negotiated and awarded without competitive bidding for the reason set forth in division (A)(18)(c)(iv) of this section, any construction activities related to the incorporation of the material into the improvement also may be provided without competitive bidding by the source or supplier of that material.

(e)(i) Any purchase, exchange, sale, lease, lease with an option to purchase, conveyance of other interests in, or other contract with a person or governmental entity that pertains to the acquisition, construction, maintenance, repair, furnishing, equipping, or operation of any real or personal property, or any combination thereof, related to, useful for, or in furtherance of an activity contemplated by Section 13 or 16 of Article VIII, Ohio Constitution, shall be made in such manner and subject to such terms and conditions as may be determined by the board of directors in its discretion.

(ii) Division (A)(18)(e)(i) of this section applies to all contracts that are subject to the division, notwithstanding any other provision of law that might otherwise apply, including, without limitation, any requirement of notice, any requirement of competitive bidding or selection, or any requirement for the provision of security.

(iii) Divisions (A)(18)(e)(i) and (ii) of this section do not apply to either of the following: any contract secured by or to be paid from moneys raised by taxation or the proceeds of obligations secured by a pledge of moneys raised by taxation; or any contract secured exclusively by or to be paid exclusively from the general revenues of the port authority. For the purposes of this section, any revenues derived by the port authority under a lease or other agreement that, by its terms, contemplates the use of amounts payable under the agreement either to pay the costs of the improvement that is the subject of the contract or to secure obligations of the port authority issued to finance costs of such improvement, are excluded from general revenues.



(19) Employ managers, superintendents, and other employees and retain or contract with consulting engineers, financial consultants, accounting experts, architects, attorneys, and any other consultants and independent contractors as are necessary in its judgment to carry out this chapter, and fix the compensation thereof. All expenses thereof shall be payable from any available funds of the port authority or from funds appropriated for that purpose by a political subdivision creating or participating in the creation of the port authority.

(20) Receive and accept from any state or federal agency grants and loans for or in aid of the construction of any port authority facility or for research and development with respect to port authority facilities, and receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of money, property, labor, or other things of value, to be held, used, and applied only for the purposes for which the grants and contributions are made;

(21) Engage in research and development with respect to port authority facilities;

(22) Purchase fire and extended coverage and liability insurance for any port authority facility and for the principal office and branch offices of the port authority, insurance protecting the port authority and its officers and employees against liability for damage to property or injury to or death of persons arising from its operations, and any other insurance the port authority may agree to provide under any resolution authorizing its port authority revenue bonds or in any trust agreement securing the same;

(23) Charge, alter, and collect rentals and other charges for the use or services of any port authority facility as provided in section 4582.43 of the Revised Code;

(24) Provide coverage for its employees under Chapters 145., 4123., and 4141. of the Revised Code;

(25) Establish and administer one or more payment card programs for purposes of paying expenses related to port authority business. Any obligation incurred as a result of the use of such a payment card shall be paid from port authority funds.

(26) Act as a portal operator for purposes of an OhioInvests offering under sections 1707.05 to 1707.058 of the Revised Code;



(27) Do all acts necessary or proper to carry out the powers expressly granted in sections 4582.21 to 4582.59 of the Revised Code.

(B) Any instrument by which real property is acquired pursuant to this section shall identify the agency of the state that has the use and benefit of the real property as specified in section 5301.012 of the Revised Code.

(C) Whoever violates division (A)(14) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.