

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Oregon State Senate  
DATE: April 18, 2023  
BY: Leslie Porter, Analyst  
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



## **DIRECTOR OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION**

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The Governor has appointed the following individual to serve as the Director of the Oregon Department of Aviation subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

### **Appointee**

Thomas Kenji Sugahara

### **Term**

Serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

### **Appointment/Confirmation Authority**

[ORS 835.106 \(2021\)](#)

### **Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>**

Required.

### **Statutory Requirements<sup>3</sup>**

The director is appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate.<sup>4</sup>  
The director serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

### **Duties and Authority**

The Oregon Department of Aviation manages Oregon's state airports, registers airports, pilots, and aircraft, and administers the Statewide Capital Improvement Program in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration and federally funded airports around the state. Under the policy direction the State Aviation Board, the director provides supervision and control of the department and is responsible for the performance of the duties, functions, and powers of the department.<sup>5</sup>

The director must:<sup>6</sup>

- keep a true and accurate account of all sums received and of vouchers issued by the department;

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2021\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 182.100 \(2021\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2021\)](#) for diversity criteria.

<sup>4</sup> [ORS 835.106 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> [ORS 835.100 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>6</sup> [ORS 835.070 to 835.106 \(2021\)](#).

- be the administrative head of the department;
- administer the laws of the state concerning aviation;
- intervene, as authorized by the board, pursuant to the rules of practice and procedure, in the proceedings of state and federal agencies that may substantially affect the interests of the consumers and providers of aviation services within Oregon;
- prescribe regulations for the government of the department, the conduct of its employees, the assignment and performance of its business, and the custody, use and preservation of its records, papers, and property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and
- prepare and submit to the board an annual report on the department's activities.

The director may:<sup>7</sup>

- enter into any contracts authorized by the board and necessary to the execution of the powers granted in statute;
- as authorized by the board, may accept, receive, receipt for, disburse and expend federal moneys and other moneys, public or private, made available to accomplish in whole or in part the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance and operation of airports, and other aviation facilities in this state;
- subject to the approval of the board, organize and reorganize the department as the director considers necessary to conduct properly the work of the department;
- hire, assign, reassign and coordinate personnel of the department and prescribe their duties and fix their compensation;
- delegate to any of the employees of the department the exercise or discharge in the director's name of any duty, function or power of whatever character, vested in or imposed by law upon the director, including duties, functions or powers delegated to the director by the board;
- require a fidelity bond of any officer or employee of the department who has charge of, handles or has access to any state money or property;
- administer oaths, take depositions, and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents or other written information necessary to carry out the functions of the department; and
- adopt rules necessary for the administration of the laws that the department is charged with administering.

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<sup>7</sup> [ORS 835.020 to 835.112 \(2021\)](#).

