

## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### A.6736 (Magnarelli)

**The New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA)** supports this legislation to address a longstanding problem facing airports when seeking qualified applicants to fill specialized airport management positions that are “provisional” under civil service law.

Due to New York requirements, many airports in this state are required to hire employees on a provisional basis for these positions until the requirements to become permanent employees are completed. This provisional hiring makes it difficult for New York airports, particularly those in Upstate New York, to recruit qualified candidates for critical aviation positions. There is a limited national pool of candidates for these positions, and they are often lost to other states’ airports that do not have to hire on a provisional basis. Current law makes it difficult for New York airports to recruit essential aviation staff.

The bill authorizes municipality owned and/or operated airports including those airports owned and/or operated by a New York public authority to appoint or promote to a permanent position in the exempt class for titles that are critical airport management and supervisory positions. Such positions include airport or authority: director and assistant director; manager or assistant manager; aircraft rescue and firefighting chief; aviation finance director; commercial development officer; aviation security, operations responsible for FAR Part 139 compliance; and chief operating officer. Under the bill, the appointment authority is limited to instances where there is no appropriate eligible list available for filling a vacancy in the selective exempt class.

It is important to note that, in New York, neither the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority nor the Port Authority of NY & NJ are subject to the provisional limitations imposed by the Civil Service Law, while most airports in other states do not have to contend with similar recruitment and hiring obstacles. Further, Albany International, Westchester County, Stewart International and state-owned Republic airports have outsourced the operations and management of the airport, effectively relieving them of the hiring challenges posed by Civil Service Law.

NYAMA recognizes this legislation as a significant step forward in addressing what is a substantial barrier to attracting aviation management, operational and leadership candidates for hire and promotion at New York airports.

NYAMA looks forward to the passage of this bill and will continue to work with state elected officials to support the needs of New York’s airports and aviation communities.

**For these reasons, NYAMA urges this legislation be enacted into law.**