

AM



William Cass, P.E.
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

38



David Rodrigue, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)
Deputy Commissioner

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Executive Office
September 12, 2023

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Transportation to pay membership dues **retroactively** in the amount of \$9,670.03 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, to the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Washington, DC, (Vendor Code 169076) for membership in the national aviation organization, from the date of Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2024. 100% General Funds.

Funding is available as follows:	<u>FY 2024</u>
04-96-96-964010-2107 Aeronautics	
026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$9,670.03

EXPLANATION

The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) was chartered in 1931 to foster the use of civil aviation for the public benefit. The Department, previously the Aeronautics Commission, had been a member for over 50 years and benefited by the timely exchange of information and programs developed by NASAO and its members. The Department has not been a member since 2013. The inability to collectively communicate with the other 49 states has been a hardship for the Department, especially when dealing with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) State Block Grant Program for which NASAO has a subcommittee to negotiate terms with the FAA. Including New Hampshire, there are 10 states that are part of the FAA State Block Grant Program, and the other nine states are all NASAO members and part of the NASAO Block Grant Subcommittee.

The request is **retroactive** as the Bureau did not initiate this request for approval to process the invoice until a Department staff member returned from the annual NASAO conference in September 2023 to verify the benefits to the State.

NASAO plays an important role in helping to develop and maintain civil aviation systems that can safely and effectively serve the needs of the citizens of the nation. NASAO's role in civil aviation is critical for continuing to work with the FAA on behalf of the 50 states to ensure adequate Federal funding of the Airport Improvement Program and the continuation of the State Block Grant Program (New Hampshire is a Block Grant State), appropriate General Aviation airport investments, and beneficial state apportionments. The cooperation and mutual aid among the 50 states and two U.S. territories, through NASAO and the Federal government has been instrumental in developing uniformity and minimizing duplication of efforts.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) was chartered in 1931. The Department, previously the Aeronautics Commission, had been a member of NASAO for over 50 years, but this membership ceased in 2013.

2. Is there any other organization, which provides the same or similar benefits that your agency belongs to?

There are no other state organizations that provide these benefits to the Department for aviation.

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

NASAO represents all 50 U.S. states and 2 territories – 44 U.S. states are NASAO members. The Department is the only NH state agency that would be a member.

4. How is the due's structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

The annual dues as prescribed by NASAO are the state's share of the annual operating cost and are assessed annually based on a population and Consumer Price Index (CPI) formula determined by the NASAO Board of Directors and approved by the members.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

NASAO plays an important role in helping to develop and maintain civil aviation systems that can safely and effectively serve the needs of the citizens of the nation. NASAO's role in civil aviation is critical for continuing to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the 50 states, and two US territories, to ensure adequate Federal funding of the Airport Improvement Program and the continuation of the State Block Grant Program (New Hampshire is a Block Grant State), appropriate General Aviation airport investments, and beneficial state apportionments. NASAO has a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the FAA to foster cooperation and mutual support among the states, federal and local governments to be responsive to the regional, state and national needs in support of the National Air Transportation System. NASAO works collaboratively with the FAA in the development of aviation rules and regulations by incorporating the needs of the 50 states. In addition to working with the FAA, NASAO works with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to develop safety regulations and guidelines to protect general aviation airports.

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

The cost for research and information materials from NASAO and the other 49 states and two U.S. territories are included with the membership fee. Training costs and registration discounts are included in this membership fee. NASAO members can also partake in (free) member meetings, webinars, and teleconferences.

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

This membership is not required to receive federal grants, participate in licensing or certification of exams.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel including the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination of known and purposes of membership-supported trips.

Travel costs are not included in this membership.

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and /or officers of the organization).

The Director of Aeronautics, Rail and Transit, or their representative, would be a voting member of NASAO. (Note: the Director is also a member of the NASAO Airport Block Grant Program Committee.) Additionally, personnel within the Bureau of Aeronautics would also benefit from and participate in various NASAO meetings, conferences, and activities.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the state if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

Should the Department not become a member of NASAO, New Hampshire would continue to not have a vote in aviation initiatives set forth by NASAO, and the remaining 49 states and two U.S. territories, which include actions involving the FAA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Additionally, the Department will continue to not receive timely information regarding federal funding, regulations, security and all other aviation matters for which NASAO members receive a weekly members-only electronic newsletter, NASAO Briefs (industry updates, round-up of state aviation issues, etc.). The Department will also not be able to partake in the joint NASAO/FAA teleconferences or other NASAO-sponsored events that provide insights into national-level rulemaking, legislation, policy, and products and networking opportunities amongst members to discuss issues and solve problems.

In addition, the State of New Hampshire is a Block Grant State for the Airport Improvement Program {AIP and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)}, one of only ten in the U.S. Being a member of NASAO allows the Department to participate in a State Block Grant subcommittee that negotiates terms with the FAA regarding the program. To effectively advocate for and protect NH's State Block Grant Program interests, participation in NASAO and this subcommittee are necessary.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



William J. Cass, P.E.
Commissioner

Attachments

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION
OFFICIALS

1390 Chain Bridge Road
#A106
McLean, VA 22101
(202) 868-6753



National Association of State Aviation Officials

BILL TO
New Hampshire Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics, Rail and Transit John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483 Concord, NH 03302-0483 ATTN: Michelle Winters

Invoice

DATE	INVOICE #
6/28/2023	M1089-24

DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
NASAO Membership October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024		9670.03	9670.03
		Total	\$9,670.03
		Payments/Credits	\$0.00
		Balance Due	\$9,670.03