EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will create a direct and indirect increase in expenditures within the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) as a result of installing camera safety devices and additional signage on the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge. The proposed law requires DOTD to install camera safety devices, erect "Trucks Right Lane Only" directional signs - 6 sets (2 per set) on the eastbound and 6 sets on the westbound, and equally place speed limit signs - 8 sets (4 per set) on the eastbound and 8 sets (4 per set) on the westbound. In addition, the proposed law doubles existing traffic fines on the bridge and requires those fines be deposited into the newly created the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Safety Fund.

Signage
DOTD reports the provisions of the proposed law that require the installation of signage at specific intervals will result in significant costs to relocate existing highway signage and markers due to federal regulations that provide guidelines with regard to spacing and placement requirements on interstate highways. DOTD estimates the total cost of placing new signs as prescribed in the proposed law and making the necessary adjustments to existing signage at between $490,000 to $690,000 Statutory Dedications out of the TFF-Regular. Expenditures will provide for the material, fabrication cost, mounting posts, and labor required for the installation of new signs as well as moving existing signs to maintain equal spacing.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an indeterminable increase in revenue from the newly created Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Safety Fund within DOTD and an increase in Local Funds revenue within Iberville and St. Martin parishes as a result of potential traffic fines. The proposed law imposes fines twice the standard fine if a driver traveling on the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge violates the LA Highway Regulatory Act. The fine for a 1st offense would increase from $175 to $350 and subsequent offenses would increase from $500 to $1,000. The number of drivers that will be fined is unknown and the revenue impact from the fine is indeterminable.

Revenue from the traffic fines will be deposited into the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Safety Fund. Subject to legislative appropriation, the proposed law provides that monies from the fund will be used to cover expenditures in DOTD for setting up signage and camera safety devices. Afterwards, a pro-rata and proportional distribution of monies in the fund will accrue to Iberville and St. Martin parishes.
CONTINUOUS EXPLANATION from page one:

The indirect increase in expenditures is attributable to the long-term maintenance and possible replacement costs for damaged or destroyed signs. The maintenance cost over time should be negligible, but to the extent that additional signage is added to the department’s inventory each year, the department’s effort to maintain them increases incrementally. Material and labor costs for any new signage is estimated to recur every 10 years in perpetuity, as roadway signs must be replaced due to age or damage.

Cameras
Also, the proposed law requires DOTD to install camera safety devices on the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge. The installation of a camera system is anticipated to increase expenditures within DOTD by $6 M for construction costs associated with installation in FY 23. The department reports installation of 16 camera, 8 per eastbound side and 8 per westbound side. In addition, the proposed law authorizes DOTD to contract with a third-party vendor to monitor the camera. The department estimates annual operating costs of $1 M to $3 M, which depends on the duration of camera use and monitoring. Subject to legislative appropriation, the proposed law provides that monies from the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Safety Fund will be used to cover all expenditures incurred by DOTD for signage and cameras safety devices.

Treasury
Creating a new statutory dedication within the state treasury will result in a marginal workload increase for the Department of Treasury, which can generally be absorbed within existing resources. However, to the extent other legislative instruments create new statutory dedications, there may be material additional costs associated with the aggregate effort to administer these funds. The Treasury performs fund accounting, financial reporting, banking, and custodial functions for 436 special funds. When unable to absorb additional workload with existing resources, the Treasury anticipates it will be required to add one T.O. position at a total personnel services cost of approximately $73,000, plus approximately $2,450 for a one-time purchase of office equipment. These expenditures are assumed to be SGF in this fiscal note.