

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 122

BY SENATOR FESI

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Provides for bridge maintenance by the Department of Transportation and Development. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 48:21(A) and to enact R.S. 48:1(25) and 23.1, relative to the
3 preservation of bridges by the Department of Transportation and Development; to
4 provide for terms and definitions; to provide for functions and responsibilities of the
5 department; to provide for reports to the legislature; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 48:21(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 48:1(25) and
9 23.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1. Terms defined

11 For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed
12 to them by this Section, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 * * *

14 (25) "Bridges" means bridges, overpasses, culverts, and related
15 structures, together with their structural, load-bearing, safety, and operational
16 components, that are located on or carry roadways designated as part of the
17 state highway system and for which the department has responsibility by

1 **federal and state law.**

2 * * *

3 §21. Functions

4 A.**(1)** The functions of the department shall be to study, administer, construct,
5 improve, maintain, repair, and regulate the use of public transportation systems and
6 to perform such other functions with regard to public highways, roads, and other
7 transportation related facilities as may be conferred on the department by applicable
8 law.

9 **(2) The Department of Transportation and Development shall be**
10 **responsible for the following:**

11 **(a) The inspection, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation,**
12 **preservation, and replacement of all bridges that are part of the state's bridge**
13 **infrastructure and state highway system or as applicable pursuant to the terms**
14 **as defined in R.S. 48:1.**

15 **(b) Oversight of maintenance projects aimed at restoring structural**
16 **integrity, improving safety, and extending the lifespan of bridges, including**
17 **addressing deterioration, implementing rehabilitation strategies, and managing**
18 **emergency repairs to ensure bridges remain safe and operational for the public.**

19 **(c) The responsibility of the department under this Subsection shall not**
20 **apply to bridges owned or operated by a political subdivision, special district,**
21 **toll authority, or the federal government, unless otherwise expressly provided**
22 **by law.**

23 * * *

24 **§23.1. Bridge review and report to the legislature**

25 **A.(1) Beginning September 1, 2026, the department shall prepare and**
26 **furnish a proposed plan and review of all bridges maintained, operated or**
27 **replaced by the department to the Senate Committee on Transportation,**
28 **Highways and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation,**
29 **Highways and Public Works in a joint meeting of the two committees.**

is located, the amount to maintain the bridge, the source of funding to maintain the bridge, and the Federal Highway Administration condition rating.

Effective August 1, 2026

(Amends R.S. 48:21(A); adds R.S. 48:1(25) and 23.1)