

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 pursuant

1 to 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 of funds 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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.