

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 347

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRAUD

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the feasibility of establishing uniform toll signage, toll dispute procedures, and toll customer service centers at all toll facilities within a certain radius.

WHEREAS, there are three bridges with tolls in Louisiana, namely: the Belle Chasse Bridge, the Louisiana 1 Highway Bridge, and the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is under contract with the Plenary Group for the construction and management of the Belle Chasse Bridge, utilizing tolls to assist in financing the project; and

WHEREAS, multiple lawsuits, including but not limited to contractual and constitutional claims, involving the parish of Plaquemines government, residents of Plaquemines, the Department of Transportation and Development, and the Plenary Group involve a multitude of issues with toll collections and operations; and

WHEREAS, residents were charged expensive and inconsistent administrative fees, not advertised throughout the bridge's development, with no explanation for the varying costs; and

WHEREAS, residents were not being given a fair chance to challenge these fees with any sort of appeal process; and

WHEREAS, one resident and plaintiff in the suit stated that he had to pay \$1,600 in administrative fees and at one point, his account was billed a \$25 administrative fee eighteen times in one day; and

WHEREAS, in the period of tolling from May 2025 to October 2, 2025, \$6,779,337 in fees and penalties were charged compared to \$5,178,012.67 billed in actual toll charges; and

WHEREAS, there are no toll fee signs to indicate actual toll rates and the cost of tolls for those crossing the Belle Chasse Bridge; and

WHEREAS, there is only one customer service center in Golden Meadow for the Belle Chasse toll bridge, which is over ninety miles away and a four hour round trip; and

WHEREAS, toll fees are impeding the ability of local businesses to earn a living; and

WHEREAS, toll and administrative fees are excessive and lack uniformity; and

WHEREAS, multiple small businesses, including but not limited to Salvo's Seafood, have provided testimony at multiple Joint Transportation, Highways and Public Works hearings; and

WHEREAS, testimony has included numerical and graphical proof that the toll rates, fees, and penalties caused a significant decline in their sales; and

WHEREAS, the appeals process for challenging toll fees is inconsistent and difficult for residents to navigate; and

WHEREAS, the lack of uniform toll signage, toll dispute procedures, and toll customer service centers within a certain radius have all served to complicate the lives of residents, business owners, and customers alike.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Department of Transportation and Development study the feasibility of establishing uniform toll signage, toll dispute procedures, and toll customer service centers at all toll facilities within a certain radius.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, by February 1, 2027, detailing its findings on ways to establish uniform toll signage, the most efficient procedures for toll disputes, and the benefits of establishing toll customer service centers at all toll facilities within a close radius of the toll bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES