

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

TRANSPORTATION: Creates the Special Permit Task Force

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Special Permit Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding
3 special permits issued by the Department of Transportation and Development for
4 oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways.

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides for approximately twenty-eight statutory special
6 permits which allow for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways, in
7 addition to other special permits issued by the Department of Transportation and
8 Development pursuant to interstate agreements; and

9 WHEREAS, the large majority of the special permits issued by the Department of
10 Transportation and Development apply to loads that exceed the weight limits ordinarily
11 applicable to vehicles traveling on the roads and bridges of this state, as set forth in R.S.
12 32:386; and

13 WHEREAS, studies have found that heavy loads, when traversing bridges on the
14 state highway system, can produce a significant strain on those bridges, which in turn can
15 lead to substantially increased maintenance needs; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana has nearly eight thousand bridges on the state highway
17 system, more than three thousand of which are past their fifty-year design life, including
18 more than three-fourths of state-owned timber bridges; and

19 WHEREAS, historically, the state has struggled to find adequate funds to maintain
20 or replace aging bridges on the state highway system, causing an increasing number of state
21 bridges to have to be load posted due to their condition, with the last count of such bridges
22 reaching five hundred sixty-seven; and

1 WHEREAS, deterioration of state bridges can create risks for the state and the
2 traveling public, including the commercial users of those bridges.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
4 create the Special Permit Task Force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature
5 and the Department of Transportation and Development on actions necessary to accomplish
6 the following, as well as any additional recommendations that the task force may find
7 beneficial:

8 (1) Consolidate and simplify governing statutes applicable to special permits issued
9 by the Department of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck
10 movement on state highways.

11 (2) Simplify the application process for special permits issued by the Department
12 of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state
13 highways.

14 (3) Increase utilization of technology by the Department of Transportation and
15 Development when issuing permits for oversize and overweight truck movement on state
16 highways.

17 (4) Increase efficiencies in the Department of Transportation and Development's
18 issuance of permits for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways.

19 (5) Adjust the costs of special permits issued by the Department of Transportation
20 and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways to fund
21 a bridge improvement program that targets deteriorating bridges on state routes of
22 significance to commerce in Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
24 following members:

25 (1) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
26 Development, or his designee, who shall be the chairman of the task force.

27 (2) One member shall be the superintendent of the office of state police, or his
28 designee.

29 (3) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

30 (4) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Forestry Association.

1 (5) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Section, Air and Waste
2 Management Association.

3 (6) One member shall be appointed by the American Sugar Cane League.

4 (7) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Motor Transport Association.

5 (8) One member shall be appointed by the Concrete and Aggregates Association of
6 Louisiana.

7 (9) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Railroad Association.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting by
9 August 1, 2016, and shall meet, at a minimum, on a bimonthly basis. At the first meeting the
10 task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that
11 it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the task force shall cause notice
13 of each meeting of the task force to be provided to the speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, the president of the Senate, the chairman of the House Committee on
15 Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on
16 Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
18 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
19 individually entitled as members of their respective organizations.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report and
21 recommendations to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and
22 public works, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and
23 the Department of Transportation and Development no later than February 1, 2017.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will be staffed by Department of
25 Transportation and Development for all meetings of the task force.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the
27 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the superintendent of the
28 office of state police, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the Louisiana Forestry
29 Association, the Louisiana Section, Air and Waste Management Association, the American

- 1 Sugar Cane League, the Louisiana Motor Transport Association, and the Concrete and
 2 Aggregates Association of Louisiana.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 105 Reengrossed

2016 Regular Session

Havard

Creates the Special Permit Task Force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature and the Dept. of Transportation and Development on actions necessary to accomplish a number of items related to the issuance of special permits by the Dept. of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways.

Specifies that the Special Permit Task Force shall be composed of the following:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, or his designee, who shall be the chairman of the task force.
- (2) The superintendent of the office of state police, or his designee.
- (3) A member appointed by the La. Farm Bureau Federation.
- (4) A member appointed by the La. Forestry Assoc.
- (5) A member appointed by the La. Section, Air and Waste Management Assoc.
- (6) A member appointed by the American Sugar Cane League.
- (7) A member appointed by the La. Motor Transport Assoc.
- (8) A member appointed by the Concrete and Aggregates Assoc. of La.
- (9) A member appointed by the La. Railroad Assoc.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original resolution:

1. Remove all elected officials from the task force.
2. Add member appointed by the La. Railroad Assoc. to the task force.
3. Add that the chairman of the task force shall cause notice of each meeting of the task force to be provided to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and the chairmen of the House and Senate transportation committees.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed resolution:

1. Deletes the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and the chairmen of the House and Senate transportation committees from list of individuals that shall receive copies of the Resolution.