

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Special Permit Task Force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature

and the Department of Transportation and Development on actions necessary to accomplish the following, as well as any additional recommendations that the task force may find beneficial:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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, the chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the superintendent of the office of state police, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the Louisiana Forestry Association, the Louisiana Section, Air and Waste Management Association, the American Sugar Cane League, the Louisiana Motor Transport Association, and the Concrete and Aggregates Association of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE