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 DIGEST

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SB 467 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Carter

Present law provides the purpose of the Southern Rapid Rail Transit Compact (compact) is to study the feasibility of rapid transit service between the states of LA., MS., TX, and AL. to establish a joint interstate commission to assist in this effort.

Proposed law maintains present law and authorizes the compact to take all steps that it deems necessary and appropriate to establish and maintain the rapid transit service.

Proposed law provides for the following legislative findings and declarations:

- (1) That passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans is supported by current federal policy and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.
- (2) That passenger rail connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans is a key project for 2021.
- (3) That there is strong support for region-wide passenger rail.
- (4) That passenger rail along the Interstate 20 corridor between Marshall, Texas and Meridian, Mississippi is supported by current federal policy and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.
- (5) That the Northwest La. Council of Governments found strong support for the passenger rail service along the Interstate 20 corridor.
- (6) That the Dept. of Transportation will work with neighboring states, participate in the Southern Rail Commission on both passenger and freight initiatives, support the improvement of existing Amtrak services and Amtrak stations, and support the development of new intercity rail initiatives.
- (7) That now is the ideal time to explore the opportunity to electrify passenger rail.

Proposed law further provides the department shall prepare the scope schedule and budget to secure all necessary approvals and permits to begin passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to provide the scope schedule and budget to the joint committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works prior to the start of the 2023 Regular Session.

Proposed law authorizes the department to apply for grants and other funds typical for passenger rail, as appropriate, and to facilitate development of the necessary platforms or stations to support passenger service.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 48:1671, adds R.S. 48:2165)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Adds Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport as a key stop for rail service between New Orleans and Baton Rouge.
2. Adds additional route for rail service along the Interstate 20 corridor between Marshall, Texas and Meridian, Mississippi.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Amends purpose of Southern Rapid Rail Transit Compact.
2. Clarifies the actions of the department.
3. Changes effective date.
4. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Makes a technical change.
2. Require the Dept. of Transportation and Development to provide the scope schedule and budget to the joint committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works prior to the start of the 2023 Regular Session.