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## DIGEST

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HB 649 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Echols

**Abstract:** Provides for a La. Music Trail.

Proposed law creates the La. Music Trail, comprised of specified U.S. highways and additional highways as approved by the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Proposed law creates the La. Music Trail Commission, which shall establish and administer:

- (1) A tourism program based on music projects that focus on highlighting music stories and related dynamics on the designated music highways.
- (2) A signage program that captures the stories, biographies, and points of interest in blues, rock and roll, jazz, rockabilly, soul, hip hop, opera, country, zydeco, and gospel music throughout Louisiana.

Proposed law provides that the commission is composed of the assistant secretary of the office of cultural development, the byways and trails director, and five members appointed by the governor.

Proposed law provides that the office of cultural development shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the La. Music Trail programs, including rules that provide for the payment of qualified expenses for a music project. Authorizes the commission to accept, receive, and use funds, services, and other property donated, bequeathed, or devised for any purpose relating to its activities.

Proposed law requires the commission to submit a report by Dec. 31st of each even-numbered year to the governor and the legislature. Requires that the report include:

- (1) The commission's goals for increasing the number of music projects and signage over the next biennium.
- (2) The economic development opportunities the commission will focus on over the next biennium.
- (3) The qualified expenses approved by the commission during the biennium for which the report is being made.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to erect appropriate signs along the La. Music Trail and authorizes the department to identify designated highways on any official

state highway maps. Requires the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to develop the official logo.

(Adds R.S 36:209(D)(4) and R.S. 56:1950.21-1950.26)