

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SB 44

2023 Regular Session

Pope

June 6, 2023

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Pope, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

- 1. That the House Floor Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 (#3598), proposed by Representative Robby Carter and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 25, 2023, be rejected.
- 2. That the House Floor Amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 (#2986), proposed by Representative Rodney Schamerhorn and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 25, 2023, be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

Senator Patrick McMath

Representative Mark Wright

Senator J. Rogers Pope

Representative Gregory A. Miller

Senator Gary L. Smith Jr.

Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry

The legislative instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Archana Cadge.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

ROADS/HIGHWAYS. Provides relative to high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. (gov sig)

Report adopts House amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.

Report rejects House amendments which would have:

1. Designated a portion of Louisiana Highway 38 in Tangipahoa Parish as the "Harold J. Smith Thruway" and directed DOTD to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting these designations.

Report amends the bill to:

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law allows for the secretary or his designee, when they believe expedient, to designate adequate shoulders on any highway in the state highway system as high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.

Proposed law provides for the removal of the requirement of the secretary to factor in appropriate travel time savings and increase in the total number of people moved through a highway corridor with high levels of travel demand and traffic congestion, when designating a shoulder as an HOV lane.

Present law provides for the definition of HOV. Proposed law retains present law and removes the term ridesharing from the definition. Proposed law further makes technical changes.

Present law defines HOV lane. Proposed law further defines HOV lane to include adequate shoulders of lanes designated for use as HOV lanes by the secretary or designee. Proposed law further makes technical changes. Proposed law adds to the definition of vehicles able to use an HOV lane to include an authorized emergency vehicle, or any other vehicle operated by the department or its agents as authorized by the secretary through promulgated rules and regulations.

Present law provides the department shall promulgate rules and regulations related to enforcement and penalties of the HOV lanes. Proposed law adds authorized use to the scope of rulemaking authority granted to the department.

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

(Amends R.S. 47:820.5.9(B)(intro para), 820.5.9(B)(1), (D), and (E) and R.S. 48:345)