

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 220

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRAUD

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the benefits of providing easier access of Geaux Pass toll passes to the public; to study the benefits of creating a Geaux Pass local office in Belle Chasse, potential improvements to Geaux Pass customer service, and causes for the delay in the commencement of Geaux Pass for the Belle Chasse bridge project; to provide recommendations to improve for future projects, similar to the Belle Chasse Bridge project; and to study integrating Geaux Pass with the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway and other states' tolling systems.

WHEREAS, Geaux Pass is a Louisiana toll tag that is linked to a prepaid account, which allows the driver to pass through toll facilities without having to stop to pay the tolls; and

WHEREAS, there are three bridges with tolls in Louisiana, namely: the Belle Chasse Bridge, the Louisiana 1 Highway Bridge, and the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Geaux Pass has only one customer service center in Golden Meadow, which is over ninety miles away from the town of Belle Chasse; and

WHEREAS, the distance from Belle Chasse and the Geaux Pass local office is an inconvenience to the citizens of Belle Chasse needing customer service assistance; and

WHEREAS, Geaux Pass toll rates on the Belle Chasse bridge for residents is 25 cents and \$1.13 for nonresidents and can be as high as \$7.57 in each direction; and

WHEREAS, those without a Geaux Pass toll are required to pay \$2.26 and can pay as high as \$8.67 in each direction; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway 1 Bridge toll for vehicles is \$4.50 and can be as high as \$21.00 for 6-axle vehicles in only one direction; and

WHEREAS, those without a Geaux Pass toll tag are required to pay between \$5.40 and \$21.90; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway bridge toll for vehicles starts at \$6.00 and can be as high as \$26.00 for vehicles with seven or more axles; and

WHEREAS, the Belle Chasse and the Louisiana Highway 1 bridge tolls are managed in part by the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the commencement of Geaux Pass for the Belle Chasse bridge project was delayed a number of times, resulting in issues with funding the project; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge is managed by the Causeway Commission; and

WHEREAS, drivers with Geaux Pass toll tags may not automatically use the tag on the Causeway Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Geaux Pass uses "open road tolling" technology; and

WHEREAS, the study of Geaux Pass toll passes can improve access to the public by creating additional offices and integrating Geaux Pass with other tolling systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the ways Geaux Pass tolls can be more effective and accessible to the public through the creation of more local offices and integration with other toll systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development's study of Geaux Pass tolls passes shall include the following:

(1) The feasibility of Geaux Pass toll tags becoming operable with other states toll tags.

(2) The effectiveness of the different states' toll tag systems used throughout the United States.

(3) The feasibility of Geaux Pass assuming the operation of all toll facilities in the state of Louisiana to provide uniformity.

(4) The feasibility of lower administrative costs to the state of Louisiana by making Geaux Pass the sole toll system.

(5) The benefits of establishing a Geaux Pass local office in Belle Chasse.

(6) The ways to improve Geaux Pass customer service for the public.

(7) The causes for the delay in the commencement of Geaux Pass for the Belle Chasse bridge project.

(8) The potential improvements for future projects, similar to the Belle Chasse Bridge project, and recommendations for achieving them.

(9) A report of the monthly and yearly revenue generated by the Geaux Pass toll system for the Belle Chasse Bridge.

(10) A report on the type and frequency of issues drivers experience using open road tolling across the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall submit a written report to the House Transportation, Highways and Public Works committee prior to January 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES