

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 488** HLS 26RS 758

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 12, 2026 4:40 PM	<b>Author:</b> BRAUD
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Department of Revenue	<b>Analyst:</b> Mimi Blanchard
<b>Subject:</b> Establishes the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund	

TAX/SEVERANCE TAX OR -\$11,476,249 GF RV See Note Page 1 of 1  
Establishes the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund and provides for use of the monies in the fund

Current law requires severance tax revenues collected to be distributed to the parish governing authority in which production occurs, subject to an annual per-parish cap, with the remaining balance deposited into the State General Fund.

Proposed law requires 20% of severance tax revenues in Plaquemines Parish, that would otherwise be deposited into the SGF, be deposited into the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund (created in the bill). Proposed law restricts the appropriations of these monies to Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) for uses directly related to the Belle Chasse Bridge (specified in the bill).

Effective July 1, 2026.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	<b>SEE BELOW</b>					
Ded./Other	<b>\$11,476,249</b>	<b>\$11,773,143</b>	<b>\$11,844,139</b>	<b>\$11,969,997</b>	<b>\$12,390,702</b>	<b>\$59,454,230</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>(\$11,476,249)</b>	<b>(\$11,773,143)</b>	<b>(\$11,844,139)</b>	<b>(\$11,969,997)</b>	<b>(\$12,390,702)</b>	<b>(\$59,454,230)</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	<b>\$11,476,249</b>	<b>\$11,773,143</b>	<b>\$11,844,139</b>	<b>\$11,969,997</b>	<b>\$12,390,702</b>	<b>\$59,454,230</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Treasury requires certain resources to create and administer a statutory dedication, as in this bill. Should aggregate session action result in the creation of funds beyond that which can be absorbed within existing resources, additional funding may be required, which is assumed to be SGR in this fiscal note.

The Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) reports that the proposed law may result in an increase in expenditures by an indeterminable amount, contingent upon the amount of severance tax revenues deposited into the Belle Chasse Merit-Based Special Fund and DOTD's decisions regarding the use of such funds for purposes related to the Belle Chasse Bridge public-private partnership project, including toll rate reductions, Consumer Price Index (CPI) buy-down payments, early handback payments, and improvements to alternative facilities identified in the project agreement.

LFO assumes that expenditures will increase in proportion to diversions from the SGF to the Belle Chasse Merit-Based Special Funds, or by an average of \$11.9 M annually from FY 27 to FY 31.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law does not impact state revenue in the aggregate but does dedicate funds that are currently deposited to the state general fund. Proposed law will result in an average annual decrease of \$11.9 M in SGF revenues from FY 27 to FY 31, with a corresponding increase in statutory dedications to the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund (created in the bill). The bill redirects 20% of the portion of severance tax revenues generated in Plaquemines Parish that would otherwise be deposited into the SGF to the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund after required parish allocations.

There is currently no severance of sulfur or lignite in Plaquemines Parish. In addition, timber severance tax collections remaining after parish allocations are deposited 75% into the Forestry Productivity Fund and 25% into the Wildfire Suppression Subfund, resulting in no remaining funds for deposit to the SGF from timber. The estimated impact was calculated using FY 25 actual severance tax collections in Plaquemines Parish (excluding sulfur, lignite, and timber) and applying the REC annual growth rates for severance tax revenues.

Senate  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

*Alan M. Boxberger*  
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**Legislative Fiscal Officer**