

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to evaluate and report on the feasibility of tolling highways and bridges in Louisiana, including but not limited to information regarding certain past tolling operations in Louisiana, and implementing local option motor fuel taxes.

WHEREAS, most major highways and bridges in the United States are built with public funds and are free to all users, as roads have been viewed as a socially beneficial activity; and

WHEREAS, highways and bridges facilitate economic activity while connecting communities and providing access for all to vital services; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, however, costs for construction and maintenance of highways and bridges have increased which has forced transportation officials and industry leaders to seek alternative funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of tolls on highways and bridges has grown because toll collection provides a mechanism for financing construction and maintenance for new highways and bridges in states facing budget problems; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Sections 4(C) and 27(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana prohibit political subdivisions of the state from taxing motor fuel, but allowing local governments to raise revenue for their transportation projects would reduce dependency on state funding and provide opportunities to enhance local transportation networks; and

WHEREAS, the report of Governor Edwards' Transition Committee on Transportation stated Louisiana had a \$12.7 billion need in highway and bridge projects and provided a cafeteria menu of potential sources of new revenue for transportation infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the cafeteria menu put forth by Governor Edwards' Transition Committee on Transportation included tolls and local option gas taxes as options to be considered as potential sources of new revenues for transportation infrastructure projects.

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 evaluate and report on the feasibility of tolling highways and bridges in Louisiana and implementing local option motor fuel taxes in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include a summarization of lessons learned by the Department of Transportation and Development from tolling operations that took place on the Crescent City Connection, including but not limited to practices which should not be duplicated for any future tolling operations in Louisiana and how best to ensure that all toll revenue is spent on the facility which is tolled or transportation infrastructure in the area of the tolled facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include a summarization of best practices for the implementation of local option motor fuel taxes, including but not limited to methods by which it can be ensured that monies that would be generated from such taxes be spent in the areas from which the monies would be collected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report be submitted to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works and the state representative representing District 17 no later than February 1, 2017.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES