

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 645

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FUNDS/FUNDING: Provides relative to funding for a Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511) construction project

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 39:91(B)(5)(e), relative to Deepwater Horizon economic damage
3 proceeds; to dedicate proceeds to fund certain projects; and to provide for related
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. The legislature hereby finds that the development, construction,
7 improvement, expansion, and maintenance of an efficient, safe, and well-maintained
8 highway system is essential to promote continued economic growth and to provide a high
9 quality of life for the people of Louisiana. The legislature further finds that directing
10 revenues to projects that have a demonstrable impact on a high number of citizens is a
11 prudent use of state revenues and that objective criteria should be utilized to make those
12 determinations. The Department of Transportation and Development estimates the Jimmie
13 Davis Bridge (LA 511) average daily traffic count ranges between twenty-five thousand and
14 thirty thousand vehicles. According to the department, the preliminary cost estimate for a
15 new two-lane bridge and repairs of the existing bridge is between one hundred and five
16 million dollars and one hundred twenty-five million dollars for the complete project. In
17 comparison, a 2016 study completed by Tamerica Management Company on behalf of the
18 Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments estimated average daily traffic counts for the
19 I-49 North Inter-City Connector at 246 for through traffic, 926 for commuters to north of
20 I-220, and 681 for commuters from north of I-220. The Department of Transportation and

1 Development estimates the project will cost approximately five hundred sixty million
2 dollars.

3 Section 2. R.S. 39:91(B)(5)(e) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

4 §91. Deepwater Horizon Economic Damages Collection Fund

5 * * *

6 B. All economic damages proceeds from the DWH litigation in excess of the
7 first two hundred million dollars deposited in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Deficit
8 Elimination Fund shall be deposited by the treasurer as follows:

9 * * *

10 (5) Beginning July 1, 2020, and each fiscal year thereafter through and
11 including Fiscal Year 2034, in such amounts as remain after payment of amounts due
12 on bonds and related expenses as provided in the documents pursuant to which bonds
13 were issued under the provisions of this Section, the state treasurer shall immediately
14 transfer the annual payments of fifty-three million three hundred thirty-three
15 thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars to the Construction Subfund of the
16 Transportation Trust Fund. The economic damage proceeds shall be used, and the
17 bonds issued by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this Section shall be issued,
18 after paying the costs associated with the issuance of the bonds, solely and
19 exclusively for the following projects and in the following amounts:

20 * * *

21	(e) I-49 North Inter-City Connector in Caddo Parish	\$100,000,000
22	<u>Additional Two Lanes for the Jimmie Davis Bridge</u>	
23	<u>(LA 511) and Repair of the Existing Bridge</u>	\$100,000,000

24 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 645 Original

2021 Regular Session

Glover

Abstract: Replaces the I-49 Inter-City Connector project with the Jimmie Davis Bridge project to receive funding from the Deepwater Horizon settlement.

Present law provides that for Fiscal Years 2021-2034, after paying amounts due on bonds and related expenses, the state treasurer shall immediately transfer the balance of the annual payments of \$53,333,333 from the Deepwater Horizon litigation to the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund.

Present law requires the economic damage proceeds in the fund to be used for specific projects enumerated in present law.

Present law allocates a specific amount of funding to each enumerated project.

Present law allocates \$100,000,000 to the I-49 North Inter-City Connector in Caddo Parish.

Proposed law replaces the I-49 North Inter-City Connector in Caddo Parish project with the Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511) project.

(Amends R.S. 39:91(B)(5)(e))