HLS 21RS-1706 ENGROSSED

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVES GADBERRY AND ECHOLS

RAILROADS: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study and work with Interstate 20 Amtrak partners to bring passenger rail service connecting Texas and Mississippi through North Louisiana

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to study
3	the development of passenger rail services along the Interstate 20 corridor in
4	Louisiana in collaboration with other state transportation agencies in Texas and
5	Mississippi and with Amtrak partners.
6	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is served by three long-distance Amtrak trains,
7	with New Orleans serving as a hub; and
8	WHEREAS, the three long-distance trains are the City of New Orleans, operating
9	between Chicago and New Orleans; the Sunset Limited, operating between Los Angeles and
10	New Orleans; and the Crescent, operating between New York, Atlanta, and New Orleans;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, there is currently no commuter or intercity corridor service provided by
13	Amtrak or other operators in the state of Louisiana; and
14	WHEREAS, passenger rail services can strengthen the intermodal transportation
15	system; and
16	WHEREAS, passenger rail services can create new options for users as they combine
17	different transportation modes to complete a trip; and
18	WHEREAS, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas are seeking to coordinate their efforts
19	in order to facilitate passenger rail services along the Interstate 20 corridor between
20	Marshall, Texas, and Meridian, Mississippi, through north Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, north Louisiana is the only gap in the entire nation in Amtrak's service 2 lines; and 3 WHEREAS, bridging this gap would connect Dallas-Fort Worth all the way to 4 Atlanta; and 5 WHEREAS, federal funds originally allocated to the state of Texas are now available 6 for use in connection with rail infrastructure for the entire Interstate 20 corridor between 7 Marshall, Texas, and Meridian, Mississippi; and 8 WHEREAS, Texas expressed a willingness to use a portion of those funds for the 9 entire Interstate 20 corridor; and 10 WHEREAS, Amtrak analyzed the route and determined that passenger rail 11 connectivity along the Interstate 20 corridor will not require an annual operating subsidy; 12 and 13 WHEREAS, passenger rail services along the Interstate 20 corridor, home to several 14 public institutions of higher education, will benefit the people of Louisiana by allowing 15 greater mobility and expanding potential labor and tourism markets access to the region; and 16 WHEREAS, passenger rail services will improve access between north Louisiana and 17 major regional economic and transportation centers in Dallas, Texas, and Atlanta, Georgia; 18 and 19 WHEREAS, traffic congestion on Interstate 20 from Shreveport to Dallas is only 20 expected to worsen over the next ten years, which makes the need for passenger rail service 21 more prevalent. 22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 23 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and 24 Development to study the development of passenger rail services along the Interstate 20 25 corridor in Louisiana in collaboration with the state transportation agencies of Texas and 26 Mississippi and with Amtrak partners. 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and 28 Development's recommendations shall consider several stops in Louisiana to allow 29 passengers the opportunity to travel throughout north Louisiana and, at a minimum, shall 30 include the following:

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- 1 (1) The route alternatives.
- 2 (2) The station locations.
- 3 (3) The infrastructure needs.
- 4 (4) The ridership and revenue estimated.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and
- 6 Development shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Transportation,
- 7 Highways and Public Works detailing its findings and recommendations prior to March 1,
- 8 2022.
- 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

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)]

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Gadberry

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to coordinate the development of passenger rail services along the Interstate 20 corridor in Louisiana with the state transportation agencies of Texas and Mississippi and with Amtrak partners. Requires the DOTD submit a written report to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works detailing its findings by Feb. 28, 2022.