Proposed law provides a passenger rail service is a key project in 2022.

Proposed law further provides a passenger rail service is supported by current federal policy and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

Proposed law provides the department shall work toward working with neighboring states, participate in the Southern Rail Commission on both passenger and freight initiatives, support the improvement of existing Amtrak services and Amtrak stations and support the development of new intercity rail initiatives.

Proposed law further provides the department shall initiate a project development program aimed at securing all necessary approvals and permits to begin passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Proposed law further provides for rail service along the Interstate 20 corridor between Marshall, Texas and Meridian, Mississippi.

Proposed law further provides the department shall apply for grants and other funds typical for passenger rail, as appropriate, and to facilitate development of the necessary platforms or stations to support passenger service.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 48:385)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Adds Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport as a key stop for rail service between New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

2. Adds additional route for rail service along the Interstate 20 corridor between Marshall, Texas and Meridian, Mississippi.