

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 764 (SB 467)

2022 Regular Session

Carter

Existing law provides the purpose of the Southern Rapid Rail Transit Compact (compact) is to study the feasibility of rapid transit service between the states of LA, MS, TX, and AL and to establish a joint interstate commission to assist in the effort.

New law maintains existing law and authorizes the compact to take all steps that it deems necessary and appropriate to establish and maintain the rapid transit service.

New law provides for the following legislative findings and declarations:

- (1) That passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans is supported by current federal policy and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.
- (2) That passenger rail connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans is a key project for 2021.
- (3) That there is strong support for a region-wide passenger rail.
- (4) That passenger rail along the Interstate 20 corridor between Marshall, Texas, and Meridian, Mississippi, is supported by current federal policy and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.
- (5) That the Northwest La. Council of Governments found strong support for the passenger rail service along the Interstate 20 corridor.
- (6) That the Dept. of Transportation will work 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.
- (7) That now is the ideal time to explore the opportunity to electrify passenger rail.

New law further provides the department shall prepare the scope, schedule, and budget to secure all necessary approvals and permits to begin passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

New law requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to provide the scope, schedule, and budget to the joint committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works prior to the start of the 2023 Regular Session.

New law authorizes the department to 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 June 18, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 48:1671(A), (C)(5)(intro para) and (b); adds R.S. 48:2165)