

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 74

BY SENATORS CONNICK, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, DUPLESSIS, FIELDS,  
FOIL, HEWITT, KLEINPETER, MCMATH, SMITH, STINE AND  
TALBOT

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

PORTS/HARBORS/TERMINALS. Creates the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority  
Advisory Commission. (8/1/23)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 53 of Title 34 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised

3 of R.S. 34:5210 through 5215, relative to the creation of the Southeast Louisiana Port

4 Authority Advisory Commission; to provide for definitions; to establish a board of

5 directors; to specify the purpose, powers, jurisdiction, and duties of the commission;

6 to provide relative to the ethics code and public records; and to provide for related

7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. Chapter 53 of Title 34 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,

10 comprised of R.S. 34:5210 through 5215, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **CHAPTER 53. SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA PORT AUTHORITY**

12 **ADVISORY COMMISSION**

13 **§5210. Short title**

14 **This Chapter shall be known and may be referred to as the "Southeast**

15 **Louisiana Port Authority Advisory Act".**

16 **§5211. Definitions**

17 **The following definitions shall apply:**

1                   **(1) "Act" shall mean the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory**  
2                   **Act.**

3                   **(2) "Commission" shall mean the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority**  
4                   **Advisory Commission created by this Chapter.**

5                   **(3) "Board" shall mean the directors of the commission.**

6                   **(4) "Department" shall mean the Department of Transportation and**  
7                   **Development.**

8                   **(5) "Secretary" shall mean the secretary of the Department of**  
9                   **Transportation and Development.**

10                   **§5212. Purpose; legislative findings**

11                   **A. The legislature hereby finds and declares it necessary to provide a**  
12                   **forum for the exchange of information between the legislature, the department,**  
13                   **and commission members representing the maritime port industry located in**  
14                   **the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Jefferson, Orleans,**  
15                   **Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, and West Baton**  
16                   **Rouge.**

17                   **B. The legislature hereby finds and declares that it is a matter of public**  
18                   **necessity to create the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory**  
19                   **Commission to provide the legislature and the department a broad perspective**  
20                   **regarding maritime ports and transportation-related matters to be considered**  
21                   **in formulating department policies concerning the Louisiana maritime port**  
22                   **system located along and near the lower Mississippi River.**

23                   **§5213. Duties**

24                   **The commission shall be responsible for the following:**

25                   **A. Prepare a comprehensive one-year, five-year, and ten-year maritime**  
26                   **port mission plan and submit the plan to the governor, speaker of the House of**  
27                   **Representatives, president of the Senate, Senate and House committees on**  
28                   **transportation, highways and public works, and the Senate and House**  
29                   **committees on commerce, no later than December first of each year.**

1                    **B. Review each project eligible to be funded pursuant to R.S. 34:3451 et**  
2 **seq. and make recommendations for approval or disapproval to the legislature.**

3                    **C. Advise the legislature and the department on matters relating to port**  
4 **authorities.**

5 **§5214. Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory Commission; creation;**  
6 **board of commissioners; compensation**

7                    **A. The Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory Commission is**  
8 **created to assess and make recommendations relative to ports located along the**  
9 **lower Mississippi River in the state of Louisiana.**

10                   **B. The domicile of the commission shall be East Baton Rouge Parish.**

11                   **C. There shall be seven commissioners on the board who shall be the**  
12 **governing body and shall be composed as follows:**

13                   **(1) The chief executive officer of the Port of New Orleans or his designee.**

14                   **(2) The chief executive officer of the Port of South Louisiana or his**  
15 **designee.**

16                   **(3) The president of the board of commissioners for the Port of Greater**  
17 **Baton Rouge or his designee.**

18                   **(4) The chairman of the board of commissioners for Plaquemines Port,**  
19 **Harbor and Terminal District or his designee.**

20                   **(5) The president of the board of commissioners for St. Bernard Port,**  
21 **Harbor and Terminal District or his designee.**

22                   **(6) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development**  
23 **or his designee.**

24                   **(7) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development or his designee.**

25                   **D. Commissioners shall serve as long as they hold their current position**  
26 **as president of their respective port or secretary of their respective agency. The**  
27 **commission shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a**  
28 **secretary-treasurer who shall serve two-year terms.**

29                   **E. Commissioners shall not be entitled to any salary for the performance**

1 of their duties, but each may be reimbursed by their represented entity for  
 2 actual expenses incurred in the performance of all duties in connection with  
 3 business of the commission. Commissioners may be reimbursed for mileage  
 4 expenses incurred for attendance at meetings of the commission. The mileage  
 5 allowance shall be fixed by the commission in an amount not to exceed the  
 6 mileage allowance authorized under state travel regulations, at rates and  
 7 standards as promulgated by the division of administration subject to the  
 8 availability of funds.

9 §5215. Meetings; quorum

10 The commission shall meet at least biannually and may meet more  
 11 frequently upon call of the chairman. A majority of the commissioners shall  
 12 constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business. All official actions  
 13 of the commission shall require an affirmative vote of the commissioners  
 14 present and voting at any meeting.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Archana D. Cadge.

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DIGEST

SB 74 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Connick

Proposed law creates the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory Commission.

Proposed law provides for the purpose of the commission and identifies the ports the commission represents which are located along and near the lower Mississippi River.

Proposed law provides for duties and responsibilities of the commission including preparing a maritime port mission plan, developing a one-, five-, and ten-year plan, reviewing each project eligible to be funded under the port construction and development priority program and making recommendations to the legislature.

Proposed law provides for the composition of board of commissioners, compensation of the commission, meetings, and quorum requirements.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 34:5210-5215)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds St. Charles to the list of parishes represented by the Commission.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds Southeast to the name of the Commission.