

SENATE BILL NO. 122

BY SENATOR FESI

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 48:21(A) and to enact R.S. 48:1(25) and 23.1, relative to the preservation of bridges by the Department of Transportation and Development; to provide for terms and definitions; to provide for functions and responsibilities of the department; to provide for reports to the legislature; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 48:21(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 48:1(25) and 23.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1. Terms defined

For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them by this Section, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *

(25) "Bridges" means bridges, overpasses, culverts, and related structures, together with their structural, load-bearing, safety, and operational components, that are located on or carry roadways designated as part of the state highway system and for which the department has responsibility pursuant to federal and state law.

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§21. Functions

A.**(1)** The functions of the department shall be to study, administer, construct, improve, maintain, repair, and regulate the use of public transportation systems and to perform such other functions with regard to public highways, roads, and other

1 transportation related facilities as may be conferred on the department by applicable
2 law.

3 (2) The Department of Transportation and Development shall be
4 responsible for the following:

5 (a) The inspection of all bridges that are part of the state highway system
6 or as applicable pursuant to the terms as defined in R.S. 48:1(10) and (11).

7 (b) The operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, preservation, and
8 replacement of all bridges owned by the department.

9 (c) Oversight of maintenance projects aimed at restoring structural
10 integrity, improving safety, and extending the lifespan of bridges, including
11 addressing deterioration, implementing rehabilitation strategies, and managing
12 emergency repairs to ensure bridges remain safe and operational for the public.

13 (d) The responsibility of the department under this Subsection shall not
14 apply to bridges owned or operated by another state agency, a political
15 subdivision, special district, toll authority, or the federal government, unless
16 otherwise expressly provided by law.

17 * * *

18 §23.1. Bridge review and report to the legislature

19 A.(1) The department shall prepare and furnish a report detailing the
20 condition of all bridges maintained, operated or replaced by the department to
21 the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the
22 House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works in a joint
23 public meeting of the two committees on or before October 1, 2026.

24 (2) The report shall include at minimum the following:

25 (a) The number of bridges within the department's responsibility as
26 defined in R.S. 48:1.

27 (b) The status of the condition of the bridge.

28 (c) The type of bridge and the parish where it is located.

29 (d) The source of funds to maintain the bridge.

30 (e) The Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory condition rating.

1 **B. Beginning January 1, 2027, the department shall present a biannual**
2 **proposed maintenance plan for the preservation of all bridges maintained by**
3 **the department to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and**
4 **Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and**
5 **Public Works in a joint meeting of the two committees.**

6 Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to
7 arrange in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions provided in R.S. 48:1.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____