

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 551

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

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

BRIDGES/FERRIES: Creates the Crescent City Connection Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:820.5.8 and to repeal R.S. 47:820.5.3, relative to the Crescent City
3 Connection; to create the Crescent City Connection Commission; to provide for
4 membership, powers, and duties of the commission; to abolish the Crescent City
5 Connection Oversight Authority; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 47:820.5.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §820.5.8. Crescent City Connection Commission; creation; membership; duties; and
9 terms

10 A. The Crescent City Connection Commission is hereby created, and
11 hereinafter referred to as "the commission".

12 B. The object and purpose of the commission shall be to advise and
13 recommend to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development,
14 hereinafter referred to as "the department", and to the public, on issues relative to the
15 future operations and management of the Crescent City Connection Division,
16 hereinafter referred to as "the division".

17 C. The commission shall have the authority to advise and recommend on
18 issues relative to the following:

19 (1) The improvement and maintenance of the marine operations and the
20 Crescent City Connection bridges and those projects enumerated in R.S. 47:820.5.

1 (2) The development of a plan for the cessation of tolls or continuation of the
2 tolls, alternative means of financing of any unfinished projects enumerated in R.S.
3 47:820.5, and the scheduled return of the marine and bridge operations of the
4 division to the department.

5 (3) The feasibility of the consolidation of the operations of the Crescent City
6 Connection Division into the Louisiana Transportation Authority.

7 (4) A cost reduction plan which consolidates the division's marine and bridge
8 section resources, staff, and efforts with the department.

9 (5) The development of a plan for the policing and traffic control on the
10 Crescent City Connection Bridge and ferry operations after December 31, 2012.

11 D.(1)(a) The commission shall be composed of eight persons, appointed by
12 the governor. Each of the following organizations shall submit two names to the
13 governor, from which the governor shall appoint the eight members:

14 (i) Algiers Economic Development Foundation.

15 (ii) Algiers Neighborhood Presidents Council.

16 (iii) Friends of the Ferry.

17 (iv) Bureau of Governmental Research.

18 (v) Harvey Canal Industrial Association.

19 (vi) Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.

20 (vii) Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

21 (viii) Plaquemines Association of Businesses.

22 (b) To the extent possible the list of names submitted by the organizations
23 shall include persons who have special competence in business, management,
24 finance, law, and human resources.

25 (c) The list of names shall be submitted to the governor no later than July 1,
26 2011. If the list is not timely submitted, the governor shall make the appointments
27 at large. The terms of the appointees shall commence on August 1, 2011, and shall
28 terminate on December 31, 2012. The secretary of the Department of Transportation
29 and Development or his designee shall serve as chairman of the commission.

1 (2) Commission members, other than the secretary or his designee, shall not
2 hold any public office nor serve on any other state board, commission, or authority,
3 nor shall any member or his immediate family derive any income from any local,
4 state, or federal governmental source.

5 E. The commission shall have unrestricted access to all records and
6 information maintained by the department of which the commission requires for the
7 performance of its duties and functions.

8 F. The commission shall report its business and status to the Joint Legislative
9 Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, to the Joint Legislative
10 Committee on the Budget, and to the Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish legislative
11 delegations, prior to March 1, 2012.

12 Section 2. R.S. 47:820.5.3 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

13 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2011; if vetoed by the governor
14 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
15 2011, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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)]

Connick

HB No. 551

Abstract: Terminates the Crescent City Connection Oversight Authority and replaces it with the Crescent City Connection Commission.

Present law provides for the Crescent City Connection Oversight Authority (CCCOA), which shall establish priorities of projects from remaining funds after all operation and maintenance expenses of the bridges and ferries of the Crescent City Connection Division (CCCD) have been paid. The CCCOA shall consider the funding of projects approved by the legislature in accordance with R.S. 47:820.5 and shall have access to the accounting of all expenditures, revenues, project priorities, status of ongoing projects, and any other matters which relate to the Crescent City Connection, its operations, and related projects.

Present law further provides that the CCCOA shall be comprised of 13 members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate from a list of three nominees submitted by each of the state senators from Senate districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and each of the state representatives from House districts 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 102, and 105. Members shall serve terms of four years; however, the first term shall commence on July 1, 1998, and terminate on June 30, 2000. Requires the CCCOA to report to the Senate and House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead creates the Crescent City Connection Commission.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall advise and recommend to the secretary of DOTD and the public on issues relative to the future operations and management of the Crescent City Connection Division. The issues include:

- (1) The improvement and maintenance of the marine operations and the Crescent City Connection bridges and those projects enumerated in R.S. 47:820.5.
- (2) The development of a plan for the cessation of tolls or continuation of the tolls, alternative means of financing of any unfinished projects enumerated in R.S. 47:820.5, and the scheduled return of the marine and bridge operations of the division to the department.
- (3) The feasibility of the consolidation of the operations of the Crescent City Connection Division into the Louisiana Transportation Authority.
- (4) A cost reduction plan which consolidates the division's marine and bridge section resources, staff, and efforts with the department.
- (5) The development of a plan for the policing and traffic control on the Crescent City Connection Bridge and ferry operations after December 31, 2012.

Provides that the commission shall be composed of eight persons, appointed by the governor from a list of 16 names, two each submitted from the following eight organizations: Algiers Economic Development Foundation; Algiers Neighborhood Presidents Council; Friends of the Ferry; Bureau of Governmental Research; Harvey Canal Industrial Association; Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission; and Plaquemines Association of Businesses. Further provides that to the extent possible the list of names submitted by the organizations shall include persons who have special competence in business, management, finance, law, and human resources. Provides that the secretary of DOTD or his designee shall be a member and shall serve as chairman.

Proposed law provides that the list of names shall be submitted to the governor no later than July 1, 2011. If the list is not timely submitted, the governor shall make the appointments at large. The terms of the appointees shall commence on August 1, 2011, and shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2012.

Proposed law prohibits commission members, other than the secretary or his designee, from holding any public office or serving on any other state board, commission, or authority, nor shall any member or his immediate family derive any income from any local, state, or federal governmental source.

Proposed law requires the commission to report its business and status to the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and to the Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish legislative delegations, prior to March 1, 2012.

Effective July 1, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 47:820.5.8; Repeals R.S. 47:820.5.3)