
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST

Morrell (SB 218)

Present law requires the DOTD to collect tolls to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge (CCC) beginning on January 1, 2013, until December 31, 2033, subject to a favorable vote of certain electors. On November 6, 2012, electors approved renewal of tolls. On March 5, 2013, Hon. William Morvant, Judge, 19th JDC, East Baton Rouge Parish, vacated the election results which approved renewal of tolls on the CCC and ordered a new election to be held on May 4, 2013. DOTD suspended toll collections on March 5, 2013.

Proposed law prohibits DOTD from enforcing present law to collect a toll, charge, administrative fee, or late charge required from any person for failure to pay a toll to cross the CCC from January 1, 2013, through May 4, 2013.

Proposed law requires DOTD to conduct a toll violation amnesty program for all persons alleged to have failed to pay a toll to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge prior to January 1, 2013.

Proposed law requires DOTD to begin the toll violation amnesty program no later than August 1, 2013 and to conclude the program on October 1, 2013 and to publicize the program.

Proposed law provides that DOTD shall not take any action to collect a charge or administrative fee from who is alleged to have failed to pay a toll to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge prior to January 1, 2013.

Proposed law provides that persons who have entered into payment plans with DOTD in connection with an alleged failure to pay a toll to collect the Crescent City Connection Bridge may avail themselves of the toll amnesty violation program.

Proposed law provides that DOTD shall retain twenty percent of the funds collected during the toll amnesty violation program to pay for the costs incurred by the department to implement the program.

Proposed law provides that upon conclusion of the program that DOTD shall notify DPS&C, office of motor vehicles, of all person who disposed of toll violations pursuant to the toll violation amenity program and that the office of motor vehicles shall be prohibited from refusing to renew the driver's licenses of such person for the alleged failure to respond to a notice from DOTD pertaining to the alleged failure to pay a toll to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge.

Proposed law requires DOTD to turn over all evidence of outstanding toll violations alleged to have occurred prior to January 1, 2013, to the Department of Justice or Department of Revenue for collections upon conclusion of the program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 48:1161.2(D); Adds R.S. 47:7013.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the engrossed bill.

1. Added a provision which requires DOTD to conduct a toll violation amnesty program for all persons alleged to have failed to pay a toll to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge prior to January 1, 2013.
2. Added a provision which requires DOTD to begin the toll violation amnesty program no later than August 1, 2013 and to conclude the program on October 1, 2013 and to publicize the program.
3. Added a provision that restricts DOTD from taking any action to collect a charge or administrative fee from who is alleged to have failed to pay a toll to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge prior to January 1, 2013.
4. Added a provision that specifies that persons who have entered into payment plans with DOTD in connection with an alleged failure to pay a toll to collect the Crescent City Connection Bridge may avail themselves of the toll amnesty violation program.
5. Added a provision that requires DOTD retain twenty percent of the funds collected during the toll amnesty violation program to pay for the costs incurred by the department to implement the program.
6. Added a provision that specifies that upon conclusion of the program that DOTD shall notify DPS&C, office of motor vehicles, of all person who disposed of toll violations pursuant to the toll violation amnesty program and that the office of motor vehicles shall be prohibited from refusing to renew the driver's licenses of such person for the alleged failure to respond to a notice from DOTD pertaining to the alleged failure to pay a toll to cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge.
7. Added a provision that requires DOTD to turn over all evidence of outstanding toll violations alleged to have occurred prior to January 1, 2013, to the Department of Justice or Department of Revenue for collections upon conclusion of the program.