

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 218 By Senator Morrell

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

ROADS/HIGHWAYS. Prohibits DOTD from collecting fines from persons not paying tolls on the Crescent City Connection. (gov sig)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE 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 20% 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.
8. Adds provision for monies in the Crescent City Transition Fund and that of the first \$4 million in the Fund for ferry service, that \$700,000 be available for initial operation costs.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

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 20% of the funds collected during the toll amnesty violation program to pay for the costs incurred by the department to implement the program.

Present law provides for deposit of monies in the Crescent City Transition Fund and that the first \$4 million deposited into the Fund be appropriated to DOTD for capitalizing ferry service formerly operated by the Crescent City Connection Division in the Marine Trust Program and that the balance in the fund as of December 31, 2012 be appropriated to the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission for lighting of the approaches to the Crescent City Connection. Proposed law removes the reference to the December 31, 2012 date and also provides that an amount not to exceed 20% of the monies collected under the toll violation amnesty program provided in proposed law be appropriated to DOTD to implement the program. Requires that of the amount appropriated for ferry service formerly operated by the Crescent City Connection in present law that \$700,000 be available for initial operation costs.

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)

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