

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY SENATORS BROWN, GARY SMITH AND WARD AND REPRESENTATIVES  
GAINES, PRICE, SCHEXNAYDER AND ST. GERMAIN

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Urges and requests DOTD to continue operation of the  
Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries and to prescribe and collect equitable ferry charges.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to continue  
operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries and to prescribe and collect  
equitable ferry charges to supplement state funds necessary to continue operation of  
the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries.

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Commission on Streamlining Government issued its  
"Reorganization Plan" which plan recommended that the Department of Transportation and  
Development eliminate four ferry routes (Melville, White Castle, Reserve, and New Roads);  
and

WHEREAS, the department has eliminated the Melville and New Roads ferry routes;  
and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development plans to eliminate  
the ferry routes and to cease operations of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries  
across the Mississippi River on June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Edgard/Reserve ferry route, Louisiana Highway 640, and the White  
Castle ferry route, Louisiana Highway 3075, are infrastructures that are critical to tens of  
thousands of Louisiana's residents who use these ferry routes daily to cross the Mississippi  
River to commute to and from their places of employment; and

1           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway 640 Edgard/Reserve ferry route connects  
2 Louisiana Highway 18 (west bank) across the Mississippi River to Louisiana Highway 44  
3 (east bank); and

4           WHEREAS, the nearest alternative detour route to the Edgard/Reserve ferry route  
5 across the Mississippi River is a distance of twenty-one miles via the Gramercy Bridge; and

6           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway 3075 White Castle ferry route connects  
7 Louisiana Highway 405 (west bank) and Louisiana Highway 141 (east bank); and

8           WHEREAS, the nearest alternative detour route to the White Castle ferry route  
9 across the Mississippi River is a distance of twenty-two miles via the Plaquemine ferry or  
10 forty-two miles via the Sunshine Bridge; and

11           WHEREAS, R.S. 48:25 authorizes the department to prescribe and collect such ferry  
12 charges as it determines necessary to maintain ferry services.

13           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
14 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to continue operation  
15 of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge  
17 and request the Department of Transportation and Development to prescribe and collect ferry  
18 charges to supplement state funds to continue the operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White  
19 Castle ferries.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
21 Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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

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DIGEST

Brown

SCR No. 105

Urges and requests DOTD to continue operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries and to prescribe and collect ferry charges to supplement state funds for such ferries.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill

1. Changes from a resolution that directs action to a resolution which urges and requests.