

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAVARD

TRANSPORTATION: Creates the Special Permit Task Force

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Special Permit Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding special permits issued by the Department of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways.

WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides for approximately twenty-eight statutory special permits which allow for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways, in addition to other special permits issued by the Department of Transportation and Development pursuant to inter-state agreements; and

WHEREAS, the large majority of the special permits issued by the Department of Transportation and Development apply to loads that exceed the weight limits ordinarily applicable to vehicles traveling on the roads and bridges of this state, as set forth in R.S. 32:386; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that heavy loads, when traversing bridges on the state highway system, can produce a significant strain on those bridges, which in turn can lead to substantially increased maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has nearly eight thousand bridges on the state highway system, more than three thousand of which are past their fifty-year design life, including more than three-fourths of state-owned timber bridges; and

WHEREAS, historically, the state has struggled to find adequate funds to maintain or replace aging bridges on the state highway system, causing an increasing number of state

1 bridges to have to be load posted due to their condition, with the last count of such bridges
2 reaching five hundred sixty seven; and

3 WHEREAS, deterioration of state bridges can create risks for the state and the
4 traveling public, including the commercial users of those bridges.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
6 create the Special Permit Task Force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature
7 and the Department of Transportation and Development on actions necessary to accomplish
8 the following, as well as any additional recommendations that the task force may find
9 beneficial:

10 (1) Consolidate and simplify governing statutes applicable to special permits issued
11 by the Department of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck
12 movement on state highways.

13 (2) Simplify the application process for special permits issued by the Department
14 of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state
15 highways.

16 (3) Increase utilization of technology by the Department of Transportation and
17 Development when issuing permits for oversize and overweight truck movement on state
18 highways.

19 (4) Increase efficiencies in the Department of Transportation and Development's
20 issuance of permits for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways.

21 (5) Adjust the costs of special permits issued by the Department of Transportation
22 and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways to fund
23 a bridge improvement program that targets deteriorating bridges on state routes of
24 significance to commerce in Louisiana.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
26 following members:

27 (1) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
28 Development, or his designee, who shall be the chairman of the task force.

29 (2) One member shall be the speaker of the House of Representatives, or his
30 designee.

1 (3) One member shall be the president of the Senate, or his designee.

2 (4) One member shall be the chairman of the House Committee on Transportation,
3 Highways and Public Works, or his designee.

4 (5) One member shall be the chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation,
5 Highways and Public Works, or his designee.

6 (6) One member shall be the superintendent of the office of state police, or his
7 designee.

8 (7) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

9 (8) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Forestry Association.

10 (9) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Section, Air and Waste
11 Management Association.

12 (10) One member shall be appointed by the American Sugar Cane League.

13 (11) One member shall be appointed by the Louisiana Motor Transport Association.

14 (12) One member shall be appointed by the Concrete and Aggregates Association
15 of Louisiana.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene its first meeting by
17 August 1, 2016, and shall meet, at a minimum, on a bimonthly basis. At the first meeting the
18 task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that
19 it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
21 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
22 individually entitled as members of their respective organizations.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report and
24 recommendations to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and
25 public works, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, and
26 the Department of Transportation and Development no later than February 1, 2017.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will be staffed by Department of
28 Transportation and Development for all meetings of the task force.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the
30 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the speaker of the House

1 of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the chairman of the House Committee on
2 Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the chairman of the Senate Committee on
3 Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the superintendent of the office of state police,
4 the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, the Louisiana Forestry Association, the Louisiana
5 Section, Air and Waste Management Association, the American Sugar Cane League, the
6 Louisiana Motor Transport Association, and the Concrete and Aggregates Association of
7 Louisiana.

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)]

HCR 105 Original

2016 Regular Session

Havard

Creates the Special Permit Task Force to meet and make recommendations to the legislature and the Dept. of Transportation and Development on actions necessary to accomplish a number of items related to the issuance of special permits by the Dept. of Transportation and Development for oversize and overweight truck movement on state highways.

Specifies that the Special Permit Task Force shall be composed of the following:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, or his designee, who shall be the chairman of the task force.
- (2) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- (3) The president of the Senate, or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, or his designee.
- (5) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, or his designee.
- (6) The superintendent of the office of state police, or his designee.
- (7) A member appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.
- (8) A member appointed by the Louisiana Forestry Association.
- (9) A member appointed by the Louisiana Section, Air and Waste Management Association.
- (10) A member appointed by the American Sugar Cane League.
- (11) A member appointed by the Louisiana Motor Transport Association.
- (12) A member appointed by the Concrete and Aggregates Association of Louisiana.