HLS 10RS-1829 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2010

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE SAM JONES

TRANSPORTATION: Requests DOTD to study reducing the size of DOTD and the distribution of state highway miles

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study reducing
3	the size of the Department of Transportation and Development, rectifying inequities
4	in the distribution of state highway miles among parishes, and empowering local
5	governments through the "right-sizing" of the state highway system.
6	WHEREAS, for at least seven decades, Louisiana has operated under a model of
7	strong state government and relatively weaker local government; and
8	WHEREAS, this governmental model has produced an inefficient highway system
9	that continues to lag behind the rest of the nation's systems; and
10	WHEREAS, many would argue that a new governmental model is needed to produce
11	a more efficient highway system, one that is aligned with the philosophy that the government
12	closest to the people is the most responsive and best serves the citizenry; and
13	WHEREAS, under a new model, the opportunity exists to reduce the size of the
14	Department of Transportation and Development, rectify inequities in the distribution of state
15	highway miles among parishes, and empower local governments through the "right-sizing"
16	of the state highway system; and
17	WHEREAS, under a new model, the state highway system would be reduced and
18	local government would be strengthened and granted far greater autonomy in meeting their
19	areas' highway needs; and
20	WHEREAS, the benefits to local governments would include, but not be limited to,
21	the following: (1) increased financial resources from the Parish Transportation Fund; (2)

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1	greater authority in transportation decisionmaking, including project prioritization and
2	funding allocation; (3) authority to regulate traffic over a larger portion of the transportation
3	network in any given jurisdiction; and (4) the ability to implement parish and municipal
4	comprehensive plans with less interference and less dependency on the state; and
5	WHEREAS, "right sizing" the state highway system would allow the Department of
6	Transportation and Development to focus its efforts on the components of the transportation
7	system that are most important to all of Louisiana's economy, namely, those that serve a
8	significant role in freight movement, tourism, and business travel.
9	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10	urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to develop a proposal
11	for "right-sizing" the state highway system in accordance with principals and criteria that it
12	shall identify for such purpose. The requested "right-sizing" proposal shall include but not
13	be limited to the following:
14	(1) A report outlining the proposal.
15	(2) Maps for each parish showing exactly which routes would be transferred from
16	the state highway system.
17	(3) Exact figures for increasing the Parish Transportation Fund and decreasing the
18	Department of Transportation and Development's operating budget and staffing levels.
19	(4) Proposed revisions to the Parish Transportation Fund formulas.
20	(5) A schedule for transferring state roads to local governments, increasing funding
21	to the Parish Transportation Fund, increasing local capital assistance programs, including
22	off-system bridges, local road safety, and a proposed congestion relief fund, and reducing
23	the Department of Transportation and Development's operating budget and staffing levels.
24	(6) Legislation necessary to implement the proposal and to ensure that increased
25	funding for the Parish Transportation Fund will continue with future administrations.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Department of Transportation and Development
27	shall submit the "right-sizing" proposal to the House and Senate committees on
28	transportation, highway and public works no later than January 31, 2012.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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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)]

Sam Jones HCR No. 38

Urges and requests DOTD to develop a proposal for "right-sizing" the state highway system and to submit the report to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works no later than Jan. 31, 2012.