
DIGEST

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Long

SB No. 49

Present law provides that the Sabine River Authority is an agency and instrumentality of the state of Louisiana and is a corporation and body politic and corporate, with power of perpetual succession, invested with all powers, privileges, rights, and immunities conferred by present law upon other corporations of like character including, but not limited to, port authorities, port commissions, and port, harbor, and terminal districts within the state.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the Sabine River Authority is placed within the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and is to perform and exercise its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies transferred in accordance with the provisions of present law.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law further provides that the agencies transferred to DOTD as provided in present law, including the Sabine River Authority, are to exercise the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided by present law and are to administer and implement the programs authorized by present law independently of the secretary, the undersecretary, and any assistant secretary of DOTD.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law further establishes the Sabine River Authority as a non-budget unit of the state.

Proposed law provides that the authority shall operate from self-generated revenues, but may receive state appropriations at any time it is deemed advisable by the legislature, and only the expenditure of such appropriated funds is subject to budgetary controls or authority of the division of administration.

Proposed law further provides that by a majority vote the board of commissioners of the authority must establish an operating budget for the use of the authority's self-generated revenues or unencumbered fund balances effective for fiscal years commensurate with that of the state.

Proposed law requires the authority to submit their budget for review and approval to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Proposed law further provide that members of the Sabine River Compact Administration appointed by the governor to represent the state as provided in the Sabine River Compact are entitled to receive a per diem allowance of \$50 for each day of a meeting of the administration or any of its committees actually attended by such member, which is to be paid out of funds available for that purpose by DOTD.

Present law further provides that members of the Sabine River Compact Administration are entitled to be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in attending meetings of the administration or its committees, or in the transaction of any business of the administration, when such business has been authorized by DOTD.

Proposed law provides that the payment of the per diem allowance and actual expenses provided for by present law are to be paid by the Sabine River Authority out of funds available for that purpose.

Proposed law further provides that members of the Sabine River Compact Administration are entitled to be reimbursed for business expenses provided for by present law when such business has been authorized by the authority.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that nothing in present law is to be construed to require disclosure of records of DOTD, including without limitation the Sabine River Authority, containing sensitive security information or critical infrastructure information.

Proposed law distinguishes between DOTD and the Sabine River Authority relative to present law.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 38:2324(B) and 2330.2(B) and R.S. 44:23.1(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill.

1. Changes the vote by which the board of commissioners of the authority is required to establish the authority's budget from two-third's to a majority.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Required the authority to submit its budget for review and approval to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.