

New law creates the Coastal Port Advisory Authority in the office of multimodal planning, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), to perform its duties, functions, and responsibilities in an advisory capacity in order for the state to determine how it may best position itself to take advantage of pending private sector investments in deepwater oil and gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

New law provides for membership as follows:

- (1) One member appointed at large by the governor who shall serve as chairman and have knowledge of the deepwater Gulf of Mexico.
- (2) The governor's executive assistant for coastal activities or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the DOTD or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his designee.
- (5) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or his designee.
- (6) A representative of the Ports Association of La. selected by its chairman of the board of directors.
- (7) One member from each of Louisiana's coastal ports appointed by each port's executive director.
- (8) One member from each of Louisiana's deep draft ports appointed by each port's executive director.

New law requires the members to select a vice chairman to serve in the absence of the chairman, and for the marine and rail transportation administrator within the office of multimodal planning DOTD to serve as secretary of the authority who shall not vote.

New law provides that the authority be advisory in nature; requires the authority, relative to the state's coastal and deep draft ports, to research and study economic development opportunities available to the state's maritime industries and the needs of the oil and gas industry, to inventory and evaluate port resources and infrastructure, including existing and future resource and infrastructure needs in order to attract business and increase future market shares, to identify technical research and previously developed information on available markets, to study port capacities and utilization, to identify potential future deficit areas, and to investigate incentives for port development.

New law provides that the authority shall not be eligible to apply for or receive funding from the Port Construction and Development Priority Program as provided in R.S. 34:3451 et seq.

New law prohibits the authority from advising on any matter related to the Port Construction and Development Priority Program.

New law requires the authority, beginning not later than May 1, 2015, and not later than May first annually thereafter, to report the progress of its activities to the house and senate committees on transportation, highways, and public works.

New law authorizes the authority to call upon the expertise of others with knowledge of Gulf of Mexico deep water exploration and production, including but not limited to the La. Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, the La. Oil and Gas Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the National Ocean Industries Association, the Gulf Economic Survival Team, chambers of commerce, Louisiana universities, fabrication companies, the La. Association of Waterway Operators and Shipyards, the La. River Pilots' Association, and port organizations.

New law authorizes interagency agreements between executive agencies and departments of the state represented on the authority to share costs necessary to perform authority duties, functions, and responsibilities.

New law provides a majority of the members constitutes a quorum and requires a favorable vote of at least a simple majority of the total membership present to take action on any matter; requires the board to meet at least annually and authorizes more frequent meetings upon the call of the chairman; provides that the members serve without salary or mileage or expense reimbursement from the authority.

New law terminates the authority on June 30, 2018.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Adds R.S. 34:3551-3552 and R.S. 36:509(U))