
DIGEST

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HB 488 Original

2026 Regular Session

Braud

Abstract: Establishes the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund and requires monies in the fund to be used for the Belle Chasse Bridge public-private partnership (P3) project.

Proposed law establishes the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special fund (fund) as a special fund in the state treasury. One-fifth of the state portion of severance tax revenues attributable to Plaquemines Parish that would have been deposited into the state general fund shall be deposited into the fund to be used for the following purposes:

- (1) To reduce toll rates on the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 project.
- (2) To pay amounts owed to the developer for exercising the Dept. of Transportation and Development's (DOTD) early handback option in the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 contract.
- (3) To pay any annual consumer price index (CPI) buy-down payment amount in the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 contract.
- (4) For DOTD projects or improvements within any area identified pursuant to the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 contract for any alternative facility.

Proposed law provides that monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 47:645(B)(2); Adds R.S. 48:250.4.4)