
DIGEST

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HB 776 Original

2026 Regular Session

Bourriaque

Abstract: Modifies certain procedures the Department of Transportation and Development utilizes in the Port Construction and Development Priority Program.

Present law (R.S. 34:3452(D)) authorizes the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to contract with the La. State University Ports and Waterways Institute for any duties associated with the development of the port priority programs, including but not limited to the development, review, and evaluation of plans and specifications, and the development of the prior priority program list. Further requires that the final determination of the port priority list remain with the DOTD and the joint transportation committees.

Proposed law modifies present law to change from the La. State University Ports and Waterways Institute as the only available contracting entity to any state college or university.

Present law (R.S. 34:3453)) provides for the DOTD's required procedure for public hearings regarding port priority projects and the determination for the final program decision. Further requires that prior to the public hearings, the DOTD must publish the appropriate official notice of the hearing in the necessary journals.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the publication of the official notice from the necessary journals to the Official Journal of the State.

Present law (R.S. 34:3457(A)) requires the Transportation Trust Fund be the source of state funds for any port project on the priority list approved in present law. Further requires that prior to the commencement of any work, the presiding officer of each port authority involved in a project execute an agreement and statement of sponsorship to provide a 10% local match for the cost of construction of the project.

Proposed law provides an exception to projects funded by the Transportation Trust Fund and approved by present law, by removing the 10% local match requirement and replacing the requirement with project categories, based on the difference percentage local matches.

Proposed law (R.S. 34:3457(C)) creates categories for projects that require a local match, with different percentages for each category.

Present law (R.S. 34:3473) provides for the DOTD's required procedure for public hearings regarding dredging and deepening project evaluations and the determination for the final program

decision. Further requires that prior to the public hearings, the DOTD must publish the appropriate official notice of the hearing on the dept.'s website.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the publication of the official notice from the dept.'s website to the Official Journal of the State.

(Amends R.S. 34:3452(D), 3453, 3457(A)(intro. para.) and 3473; Adds R.S. 34:3457(C))