
DIGEST

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HB 896 Original

2026 Regular Session

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Abstract: Requires toll signage at all toll facilities, toll dispute procedures, and toll customer service centers within a certain radius of toll facilities.

Present law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(A)) authorizes the Dept. of Transportation and Development to exercise police powers to maintain and handle any state-owned toll facility. Further authorizes the dept. may delegate the exercise of these powers to any private entity acting on its behalf in the operation of a toll facility.

Present law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)) provides for definitions.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)(9)) defines "toll-by-plate" as the license plate tolling system that allows customers to receive an invoice by mail at the address where the vehicle is registered.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)(10)) defines "toll customer service center" as a facility used to assist drivers in various tolling services, including but not limited to inquiries on existing accounts, account setup, service complaints, and payment processing.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)(11)) defines "toll collection facility" as any road, bridge, tunnel, or related structure for which users pay a fee for passage.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)(14)) defines "vehicle class" as the system used to categorize the vehicle's dimensions, including height, width, and length.

Present law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(C)) specifies that no vehicle or trailer can be driven or be towed through any state-owned toll collection facility without payment of the proper toll. Requires that if the proper toll is not paid, as evidenced by video or electronic recording, the registered owner be liable to make prompt payment to the dept. and an administrative fee of \$25 to recover the cost of collecting the toll.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(D(1) and (2))) provides for an exception as defined in proposed law. Further removes the \$25 administrative fee and adds an exception for vehicles listed in proposed law. Specifies that a person who receives an invoice for the use of a toll project must, at no date later than the due date specified in the invoice, do the following:

- (1) Pay the amount owed as stated in the invoice.

- (2) Send a written request to the dept. for a review of the toll assessment contained in the invoice.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(D)(3)) specifies that if a person fails to comply with proposed law, the dept. may add an administrative fee, not to exceed \$6, to the amount owed. Further requires the dept. to:

- (1) Set the administrative fee by rule in an amount that does not exceed the cost of collecting the toll.
- (2) Charge the person more than \$48 in administrative fees in a 12 month period.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(C)) requires the dept. or private entity acting on its behalf in the operation of a toll facility erect toll signage to indicate the presence of a toll and the real-time prices of the tolls based on the vehicles' class, rates for toll tag carriers, and toll-by-plate rates for parish residents and nonresidents.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(J)(1)) provides for the procedure to dispute improper toll charges. Further specifies that to dispute the improper toll charges, the declaration of dispute can be submitted.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(J)(1)(a)-(e)) provides grounds to dispute the violation if:

- (1) The person or entity was not the registered owner at the time of the alleged violation and submits a copy of the plate surrender receipt from the office of motor vehicles or proof of sale of the vehicle.
- (2) The toll was paid by toll tag with the toll posted to a valid toll-tag account and a copy of the toll statement was submitted to the authorized agent.
- (3) The toll was paid in cash at the time and a copy of the toll receipt was submitted to the authorized agent.
- (4) The vehicle was not present at the facility at the time of the violation.
- (5) For other good cause shown.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(J)(2)) specifies that if the owner is a vehicle rental or leasing company which seeks to perform a transfer of responsibility to the vehicle lessee or renter, the owner must submit to the authorized agent a notice of violation of the signed lease or rental agreement and certification of the name and address of the lessee or renter of the vehicle at the time of the toll violation. Further requires the notice of violation or toll invoice be sent by the authorized agent to such lessee or renter within 45 days of receipt of the signed lease or rental agreement and

certification and such lessee or renter will be deemed the owner of such vehicle and liable for the payment of the toll and any toll violation fees.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(J)(3)) requires the authorized agent to send the owner a written determination of the declaration of dispute resulting from a request made under proposed law. Grants the owner the ability to request a review by the authority of the authorized agent's determination by submitting a request for review at the place and time and in the matter established in the authorized agent's written determination of the declaration of dispute. Specifies that the declaration is final and binding on the owner unless overturned by the authority upon review.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(K)) requires that a toll customer service center be present when there is the operation of a toll facility and specifies that it must be maintained by the dept. or a private entity acting on its behalf. Further requires that the toll customer service center be within at least a five mile radius of any toll facility. Requires that the entity receiving toll revenue and credits pay for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the toll customer center.

Present law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(I)) authorizes the dept. to contract with an operating entity to carry out the provisions of present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(L)) provides an exception that does not authorize the dept. to contract with an operating entity to adopt policies and procedures for the collection of tolls, administrative fees, and late charges authorized pursuant to present law and proposed law that is in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(M)) requires the dept. to develop and implement efficient policies and procedures to ensure that vehicles falling under proposed law and not be assessed toll passage fees and related administrative fees or fines as outlined in proposed law. The following vehicles are exempted from toll passage fees and related administrative fees or fines as follows:

- (1) Vehicles owned by any Federal, State, Parish, or local-municipality governments or their various departments.
- (2) Vehicles owned by current employees of schools located in the parish in which the tolling facility resides.
- (3) Vehicles owned by local municipality or parish police and firefighters in parishes where the toll facility exists.
- (4) Vehicles of any current government employees of the parish in which the toll facility exists.
- (5) Vehicles displaying a disabled-veteran license plate.
- (6) Vehicles identified through the toll-by-plate system shall not round-trip crossed the toll facility more than once in three calendar months. Vehicles identified through the toll-by-plate system that have crossed the toll facility more than once in three months shall be assessed toll passage fees.

Proposed law (R.S. 48:250.4.1(M)) specifies that the exception outlined in proposed law is limited to two motor vehicles per employee's household and the vehicles shall be registered in the employees' name. Requires these employees provide proof of employment to the department or authorized private entity upon request for verification purposes

(Amends R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)(9) and (10) and (C)-(I); Adds R.S. 48:250.4.1(B)(11)-(14) and (J)-(M))