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## DIGEST

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HB 655 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Braud

**Abstract:** Authorizes the Department of Transportation and Development to enter into contracts for the construction, operation, and maintenance of ferries and related facilities owned and controlled by the state.

Present law permits the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to take over, control, operate, and regulate ferries, barges, or other means of transportation necessary to the public. Further authorizes the DOTD to prescribe and collect ferry charges or transfer charges necessary to maintain these services. Additionally, allows the DOTD to let franchises or enter into contracts for these services in the name of the state or jointly with parishes, municipalities, other states, or political subdivisions of other states.

Proposed law adds that any facility related to ferries and barges may be controlled, operated, and maintained by the DOTD. Further specifies that the DOTD may do this to provide adequate, safe, and efficient transportation to the public. Further clarifies that the DOTD may prescribe and collect ferry or transfer charges at rates reasonably anticipated to generate revenue in an amount that will not exceed the cost of the provided services.

Proposed law authorizes the DOTD to operate and maintain DOTD-owned ferries, barges, or related means of transportation to let on a cost-plus basis and not be subject to the applicable provisions in present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 48:25)