

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1000

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRAUD

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Modifies certain operations within the Department of Transportation and Development and the Highway Priority Program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 48:229.1(F) and (H), 231(A)(5), and 251(B), relative to reform
3 operations within the Department of Transportation and Development and the
4 Highway Priority Program; to clarify that the annual submissions of the Highway
5 Priority Program apply to the completed prior year's program; to specify deadlines
6 for final construction program submission; to provide for an increase in the contract
7 limit amount for highways or other public facilities; to provide an effective date; and
8 to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 48:229.1(F) and (H), 231(A)(5), and 251(B) are hereby amended and
11 reenacted to read as follows:

12 §229.1. Statewide prioritization process for the Highway Priority Program

13 * * *

14 F. The department shall include in its annual submission of the ~~highway~~
15 ~~priority program~~ Highway Priority Program a detailed list of any changes to the
16 completed previous year's program, along with an explanation of the reasons such
17 changes were made. It shall be the goal of the department to ensure that at least
18 ninety percent of its projects in the program progress as provided for in the
19 completed previous year's program submission. The legislative auditor shall monitor
20 the program and make an annual determination of the percentage of accuracy.

21 * * *

1 H. The department shall provide a report on the status of projects included
2 in the current Highway Priority Program to the House and Senate committees on
3 transportation, highways and public works annually.

4 * * *

5 §231. Final construction program for current fiscal year; public hearings; Joint
6 Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works; reports; review
7 by legislature; restrictions on legislature

8 A.

9 * * *

10 (5) A report based on the testimony received at the hearings shall be sent to
11 the department and the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways
12 and public works. The department shall then create the final construction program
13 for the coming fiscal year for submission to the legislature. Any project discussed
14 at the hearing that is not included in the final construction program for the upcoming
15 fiscal year shall be given numerical identification and the department shall provide
16 the aforementioned committees with a list of the projects along with written
17 justification for the exclusion of each individual project on or before the first of
18 October of the following fiscal year.

19 * * *

20 §251. Contracts for projects

21 * * *

22 B. Every contract exceeding the contract limit, as defined in this Subsection,
23 for construction, maintenance, or improvement of a department facility under the
24 provisions of this Part shall be made in the name of the department and shall be
25 signed by the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his
26 duly appointed designee and by the contracting party. The contract limit for this Part
27 is hereby defined to equal ~~one~~ three million dollars. No contract shall be entered into
28 nor shall any work be authorized which will create a liability on the part of the state
29 in excess of the funds available or which will be available for the project.

30 * * *

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1000 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Braud

Abstract: Reforms certain operations with the Department of Transportation and Development and the Highway Priority Program.

Present law (R.S. 48:229.1(F)) requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to include a detailed list of any changes to the previous year's annual submission of the Hwy. Priority Program, along with an explanation of the reasons for the changes. Further provides that the goal of the DOTD is to ensure at least 90% of its projects in the program as provided for in the previous year's program submission.

Proposed law specifies that the annual submission of the Hwy. Priority Program include a detailed list of any changes to the completed previous year's program. Further specifies that the 90% of its projects in the program progress as provided for in the completed previous year's program submission.

Present law (R.S. 48:229.1(H)) requires the DOTD provide an annual report of the status of projects in the Hwy. Priority Program to the House and Senate committees on transportation, hwys. and public works.

Proposed law clarifies that the report on the status of projects refers to the current Hwy. Priority Program.

Present law (R.S. 48:231(A)(5)) requires a report of the hearing testimony be sent to the DOTD and the House and Senate committees on transportation, hwys. and public works. Further requires the DOTD create a final construction program for the coming fiscal year for submission to the legislature. Additionally requires that any project discussed at the hearing that is not included in the final construction program be given a numerical identification and requires the DOTD provide to the House and Senate committees on transportation, hwys. and public works a list of projects along with a written justification for the exclusion of each individual project.

Proposed law includes a deadline of on or before Oct. 1st of the following fiscal year for the DOTD to provide the numerical identification of the list of projects along with the written justification for the exclusion of the projects.

Present law (R.S. 48:251(B)) requires every contract exceeding the contract limit, as defined in present law, for construction, maintenance, or improvement of a DOTD facility under the provisions of present law be made in the name of the DOTD and be signed by the secretary of the DOTD or his duly appointed designee and by the contracting party. Further requires that the contract limit be equal to \$1 million.

Proposed law increases the contract limit from \$1 million to \$3 million.

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

(Amends R.S. 48:229.1(F) and (H), 231(A)(5), and 251(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add an effective date upon signature of the governor.