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 DIGEST

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SB 122 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Fesi

Present law provides for terms and definitions. Proposed law retains present law and adds the term "bridges".

Present law provides for the functions of the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Proposed law retains present law and adds the following required responsibilities of the DOTD:

- (1) Inspection of all bridges that are part of the state hwy. system or as applicable pursuant to the terms in present law.
- (2) Operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, preservation, and replacement of all bridges owned by the dept.
- (3) The responsibility of the dept. under proposed law is applicable to bridges owned or operated by another state agency, a political subdivision, special district, toll authority, or the federal government, unless otherwise expressly provided by law.

Proposed law requires the DOTD provide a report detailing the condition of all bridges in the state to the Senate and House transportation committees in a public meeting on or before Oct. 1, 2026. Proposed law further provides the report will include at a minimum the number of bridges under the responsibility of the DOTD pursuant to present law, the status of the condition of the bridge, including the number of employees necessary to maintain the bridge, the type of bridge, and the parish it is located, the source of funding to maintain the bridge, and the Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory condition rating.

Proposed law requires the DOTD present a biannual proposed maintenance plan for the preservation of all bridges maintained by the DOTD to the legislature in a joint meeting of the two transportation committees beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

Effective August 1, 2026

(Amends R.S. 48:21(A); Adds R.S. 48:1(25) and 23.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove the requirement that the Department of Transportation and Development be responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, preservation, and replacement of all bridges in state's bridge infrastructure system. Retains that the department be responsible to the inspection of the state highway system.

3. Specify that the department be responsible for operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, preservation, and replacement of all bridges owned by the department.
4. Add that the responsibilities of the department do not apply to bridges owned and operated by any other state agency.
5. Remove the September 1, 2026 date that the department was required to prepare and furnish the plan to the legislature.
6. Change from the report to the legislature include proposed plan and review to the report includes details of the condition of bridges.
7. Add the requirement that the department present the plan to the Senate and House transportation committees in a public meeting on or before October 1, 2026.
8. Remove the requirement that the department hold a public meeting within forty-five days of receiving the request.
9. Change a report requirement for certain information from the status of the maintenance of the bridge to the status of the condition of the bridge.
10. Remove the report requirement to include the amount of funds required to maintain the bridge.
11. Change a report requirement from including the Federal Highway Administration condition rating to the Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory condition rating.
12. Change from the requirement that the department present a quarterly review and proposed plan for the preservation of all bridges to a biannual proposed maintenance plan for the preservation of all bridges.