
DIGEST

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HB 488 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Braud

Abstract: Establishes the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special Fund and requires monies in the fund to be used for the Belle Chasse Bridge public-private partnership (P3) project.

Proposed law establishes the Belle Chasse Bridge Merit-Based Special fund (fund) as a special fund in the state treasury. Provides for investment, interest, and retention of monies in the fund. Requires the state treasurer to annually deposit into the fund an amount equal to one-fifth of the recurring severance tax revenues collected in Plaquemines Parish that otherwise would have been deposited into the state general fund. Provides that monies in the fund be used for the following purposes:

- (1) To reduce toll rates on the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 project.
- (2) To pay amounts owed to the developer for exercising the Dept. of Transportation and Development's (DOTD) early handback option in the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 contract.
- (3) To pay any annual consumer price index buy-down payment amount in the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 contract.
- (4) For DOTD projects or improvements within any area identified pursuant to the Belle Chasse Bridge P3 contract for any alternative facility.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 47:645(B)(2); Adds R.S. 48:250.4.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Restrict deposit into the fund to one-fifth of recurring severance tax revenues collected in Plaquemines Parish that otherwise would have been deposited into the state general fund.