

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 347

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRAUD

HIGHWAYS: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study modifying toll operations within the state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the
3 feasibility of establishing uniform toll signage, toll dispute procedures, and toll
4 customer service centers at all toll facilities within a certain radius.

5 WHEREAS, there are three bridges with tolls in Louisiana, namely: the Belle Chasse
6 Bridge, the Louisiana 1 Highway Bridge, and the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge; and

7 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is under contract with the Plenary Group for the
8 construction and management of the Belle Chasse Bridge, utilizing tolls to assist in financing
9 the project; and

10 WHEREAS, multiple lawsuits, including but not limited to contractual and
11 constitutional claims, involving the parish of Plaquemines government, residents of
12 Plaquemines, the Department of Transportation and Development, and the Plenary Group
13 involve a multitude of issues with toll collections and operations; and

14 WHEREAS, residents were charged expensive and inconsistent administrative fees,
15 not advertised throughout the bridge's development, with no explanation for the varying
16 costs; and

17 WHEREAS, residents were not being given a fair chance to challenge these fees with
18 any sort of appeal process; and

19 WHEREAS, one resident and plaintiff in the suit stated that he had to pay \$1,600 in
20 administrative fees and at one point, his account was billed a \$25 administrative fee eighteen
21 times in one day; and

1 WHEREAS, in the period of tolling from May 2025 to October 2, 2025, \$6,779,337
2 in fees and penalties were charged compared to \$5,178,012.67 billed in actual toll charges;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, there are no toll fee signs to indicate actual toll rates and the cost of tolls
5 for those crossing the Belle Chasse Bridge; and

6 WHEREAS, there is only one customer service center in Golden Meadow for the
7 Belle Chasse toll bridge, which is over ninety miles away and a four hour round trip; and

8 WHEREAS, toll fees are impeding the ability of local businesses to earn a living; and

9 WHEREAS, toll and administrative fees are excessive and lack uniformity; and

10 WHEREAS, multiple small businesses, including but not limited to Salvo's Seafood,
11 have provided testimony at multiple Joint Transportation, Highways and Public Works
12 hearings; and

13 WHEREAS, testimony has included numerical and graphical proof that the toll rates,
14 fees, and penalties caused a significant decline in their sales; and

15 WHEREAS, the appeals process for challenging toll fees is inconsistent and difficult
16 for residents to navigate; and

17 WHEREAS, the lack of uniform toll signage, toll dispute procedures, and toll
18 customer service centers within a certain radius have all served to complicate the lives of
19 residents, business owners, and customers alike.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
21 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Department of Transportation
22 and Development study the feasibility of establishing uniform toll signage, toll dispute
23 procedures, and toll customer service centers at all toll facilities within a certain radius.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
25 Development shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Transportation,
26 Highways and Public Works, by February 1, 2027, detailing its findings on ways to establish
27 uniform toll signage, the most efficient procedures for toll disputes, and the benefits of
28 establishing toll customer service centers at all toll facilities within a close radius of the toll
29 bridge.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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)]

HR 347 Original

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Braud

Urges and requests that the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) study the feasibility and benefits of establishing uniform toll signage, toll dispute procedures, and toll customer service centers at all toll facilities within a certain radius. Requires the DOTD to submit a written report detailing its findings to the House transportation committee before Feb. 1, 2027.