

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 415 (HB 655)

2026 Regular Session

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Prior law permitted the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to take over, control, operate, and regulate ferries, barges, or other means of transportation necessary to the public. Further authorized the DOTD to prescribe and collect ferry charges or transfer charges necessary to maintain these services. Additionally, authorized the DOTD to let franchises 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.

New law removes the authority for the DOTD to take over ferries, barges, or other public transportation. Modifies prior law by adding that any facility related to ferries and barges may be controlled, operated, maintained, and regulated 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.

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

Effective upon signature of governor (May 27, 2026).

(Amends R.S. 48:25)