DIGEST

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Robideaux HB No. 166

Abstract: Provides for the development of a coastal protection highway composed of levees and highways which provide protection from storm surge resultant from hurricanes.

<u>Proposed law</u> defines "hurricane protection" as a system of barriers and associated elements to provide protection against tidal surges.

<u>Proposed law</u> defines "Louisiana coastal protection highway" as a coastal protection barrier with an associated toll highway, which is to be constructed in the area of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from the Texas border to New Orleans.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority to do the following:

- (1) Conduct a feasibility study to be completed by March 15, 2006, and develop a plan of constructing the Louisiana coastal protection highway.
- (2) Enter into contracts and agreements of any nature for the purposes of the Louisiana coastal protection highway with any person, corporation, association, or other entity to carry out the purposes of and the powers granted to the authority.
- (3) Enter into contracts and agreements with any person, corporation, association, or other entity concerning the providing of lands, servitudes, rights-of-way, and relocations, and engage jointly in the exercise of any power to include the construction, operation, and maintenance of any facilities and improvements for the purposes of the Louisiana coastal protection highway.
- (4) Buy and sell property, make and execute all contracts, and perform any and all things necessary to carry out the purposes of the Louisiana coastal protection highway.
- (5) Manage the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Louisiana coastal protection highway.
- (6) Monitor and seek available private funding alternatives, such as the build-operate-transfer model, for financing of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Louisiana coastal protection highway.

(Adds R.S. 49:213.11)