AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 47:481 and R.S. 48:25.1, 196(A)(introductory paragraph), and 1656(20) and to enact R.S. 48:25.2, relative to ferries; to require the Department of Transportation and Development to provide for continued operation of certain ferry service formerly operated by its Crescent City Connection Division; to authorize cooperative agreements for ferry service; to establish ferry fares; to dedicate certain taxes to a special fund for ferry operations; to create the New Orleans Ferry Fund; to provide relative to the powers of the Regional Transit Authority; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:481 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§481. Disposition of collections

Except as provided in R.S. 47:480, all fees and taxes provided for in this Chapter, including the permit fees, shall be paid to the state treasurer on or before the tenth day of each month following their collection and shall be credited to the account of the Transportation Trust Fund, the State Highway Improvement Fund, state highway fund No. 2, and the Algiers-Canal Street New Orleans Ferry Fund, as provided by law.

Section 2. R.S. 48:25.1, 196(A)(introductory paragraph), and 1656(20) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 48:25.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§25.1. Operation or control of ferries; Crescent City Connection New Orleans ferries; cooperative agreement for ferry service; rates; operating agreement

A. The department may take over, control, and regulate own, provide

Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in boldface type and underscored are additions.
insurance, and contribute from its operating budget not more than four million

dollars annually for the continued operation of the Chalmette ferries ferry

formerly operated by its Crescent City Connection Division crossing the Mississippi

River. It may prescribe and collect such fees, tolls, fares, or ferry charges as it
deems necessary to operate, maintain, and replace such ferry service. To that end, it
may privatize, let franchises, or enter into contracts for such ferry service in the
name of the state, alone or jointly with the parishes or municipalities of the state. If
the department enters into a contract or franchise agreement with a non-public entity
to provide ferry service formerly operated by its Crescent City Connection Division;
the provisions of R.S. 48:999 and 1000 which provide for certain free and
unhampered passage on toll ferries shall not apply.

B. If the department enters into a contract or franchise agreement with
a non-public entity to provide such ferry service, such contract shall include a
contract provision that appoints may enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement
for ferry service with a political subdivision of the state the New Orleans
Regional Planning Commission as an advisor to such to provide for the continued
operation of the Chalmette ferry. The cooperative endeavor agreement may
include the use of maritime assets and associated maritime properties formerly
operated by its Crescent City Connection Division to be managed and operated
as a ferry system. The political subdivision shall establish ferry fares and may
contract with a public or private ferry service contractor. The commission may
follow its customary procedures to satisfy such advisory function.

C. The political subdivision and its ferry service contractor shall use best
practices to operate and manage ferry service and to establish and collect ferry
fares. All ferry fares collected shall be used solely to operate and maintain ferry
service.

§25.2. New Orleans Ferry Fund; ferry operations

A. There is hereby created, as a special fund in the state treasury, the

New Orleans Ferry Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund".

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning July 1, 2013,
and each fiscal year thereafter, after compliance with the requirements of

Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, and after making the

allocation for state highway fund No. 2 for the Greater New Orleans

Expressway Commission, the treasurer shall deposit into the fund, an amount
equal to the total of all of the funds derived from the collection of registration
and license fees and taxes collected by the state pursuant to R.S. 47:462, and as
provided in R.S. 47:481, in the parish of Orleans.

B. The monies in the fund shall be subject to an annual appropriation
by the legislature and shall be used only as provided in Subsection C of this
Section. The monies in the fund shall be invested by the treasurer in the same
manner as the monies in the state general fund, and all interest earned shall be
deposited and credited to the fund. All unexpended or unencumbered monies
remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of
the fund.

C. Monies appropriated from the fund shall be used exclusively by the
Department of Transportation and Development to fund operations of the
Chalmette ferry and to provide ferry service formerly operated by its Crescent
City Connection Division. These monies shall be in addition to monies the
department shall contribute from its operating budget as provided by law.

D. The provisions of this Section shall terminate on June 30, 2018.

§196. State Highway Improvement Fund

A. There is hereby created, as a special fund in the state treasury, the State
Highway Improvement Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "fund." The source of
monies in this fund shall be registration and license fees and taxes collected by the
state pursuant to R.S. 47:462, and as provided in R.S. 47:481, in such amounts as
remain after payment of amounts due on bonds and related expenses as provided in
the documents pursuant to which the bonds were issued under the provisions of R.S.
48:196.1. Beginning July 1, 2007, and each fiscal year thereafter, after satisfaction
of the requirements of the provisions of R.S. 48:196.1 and compliance with the
requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, and after
making the allocation for state highway fund No. 2, and the Algiers Canal Street
New Orleans Ferry Fund, the treasurer shall deposit into the fund the following
amounts:

* * *

§1656. General powers

The authority shall have all powers necessary or convenient to accomplish
the aforesaid purposes, including but not limited to the following:

* * *

(20) The authority shall have no power or authority to operate taxicabs, or
facilities designed exclusively for the transportation of property for hire, nor ferries,
sightseeing limousines and buses, or school buses, nor shall it engage in other
activities commonly regarded as private enterprise, except to develop a transit
system, provide concessions, off-street parking and other facilities for the comfort,
safety and convenience of transit passengers, and otherwise accomplish the purpose
and policies expressed and contemplated in this Act.

* * *

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013.