

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 310

BY SENATOR BROOME

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. Requires training for members of boards or commissions of regional transit entities. (8/1/14)

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 11 of Title 48 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 48:1501, relative to regional public transportation; to provide for the development and implementation of training of members of boards and commissions of regional public transit entities; to require training for such membership; to provide that the lack of training is a cause for removal; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 11 of Title 48 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 48:1501, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 11. REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**§1501. Regional transit entities; training required of members**

**A. All members of a regional transit entity board shall receive and complete at least six hours of annual training beginning in the first year of taking office. The training shall be approved by the staff of the regional planning commission where the transit entity is located and shall include the duties, responsibilities, ethics, and substance of the position held or to be held.**

**B. The regional planning commission staff shall determine the eligibility**

1 of training sessions which meet the criteria related to these topics: transit  
2 planning, financing, operations, and design best practices; parliamentary  
3 procedure; public hearing procedure; cultural sensitivity; ethics; workforce and  
4 labor issues; public engagement; transit entity governance; and requirements  
5 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

6 C. Documentation of continuing education. Members shall document  
7 their attendance of training sessions in a written statement filed with the chief  
8 executive officer of the transit entity. Each statement shall identify the date of  
9 each program attended, its subject matter, location, sponsors, and the time  
10 spent in each program. The chief executive officer shall submit this  
11 documentation to the regional planning commission annually.

12 D. Removal of a member. Failure of a member to receive and complete  
13 the requisite number of training hours within the first year after the member  
14 takes office and annually thereafter or to file the statement required by  
15 Subsection C of this Section shall constitute a cause for removal of the member  
16 by the appointing body.

17 E. Validity of decisions. Failure of one or more members to receive and  
18 complete training required by this Section shall not effect, impact, or invalidate  
19 any decision of the board or commission.

20 F. The provisions of this Section shall only apply to persons appointed  
21 to a board on or after January 1, 2015.

22 G. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the following  
23 meaning, unless the context requires otherwise:

24 (1) "Board" means the board or commission which serves as the  
25 governing body of a regional transit entity.

26 (2) "Regional transit entity" includes each area public transit system  
27 and regional public transit authority which administers a public transit system  
28 within a metropolitan area that is created by law as a political subdivision of the  
29 state.

---

The original instrument was prepared by Jerry J. Guillot. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Riley Boudreaux.

---

#### DIGEST

Broome (SB 310)

Proposed law requires all members of a "regional transit entity" board to receive and complete at least 6 hours of annual training beginning in the first year of taking office. The training must be approved by the staff of the commission and must include the duties, responsibilities, ethics, and substance of the position held or to be held.

"Regional transit entity" is defined as each area public transit system and regional public transit authority which administers a public transit system within a metropolitan area that is created by law as a political subdivision of the state.

The staff of the commission is required to determine the eligibility of training sessions which meet the criteria related to the topics listed in the proposed law. Members must document their attendance in a written statement filed with the chief executive officer of the transit entity who must submit the documentation to the regional planning commission annually.

Proposed law failure to complete training or file the statement constitutes a cause for removal of the member by the appointing body.

Proposed law provides that failure of one or more members to receive and complete the training does not effect, impact, or invalidate any decision of the board or commission.

Provides that proposed law applies only to persons appointed to a board on or after January 1, 2015.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 48:1501)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works to the original bill

1. Still requires 6 hours of training in the duties, responsibilities, ethics, and substance of the position for persons appointed to boards on and after January 1, 2015, but substantially changes the proposed law to specify:
  - (a) The training must be approved by the staff of the commission rather than the governing authority of the parish in which the regional transit entity is located and the staff is required to determine the "eligibility" of training sessions.
  - (b) Lists topics which must be included in training.
  - (c) Requires documentation of attendance and filing.
  - (d) Provides that failure of one or more members to receive and complete the training does not invalidate actions of the board or commission.