
DIGEST

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HB 511 Original

2021 Regular Session

McFarland

Abstract: Provides for budgetary controls and oversight for the operating budget and capital project expenditures of the Dept. of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Proposed law establishes the Commission on Government Reform in Transportation for the purpose of assessing DOTD's operations, employee salaries and related benefits, and capital project expenditures.

Proposed law requires the legislative auditor to commence a comprehensive audit of DOTD, which shall include a review of DOTD's operations, organizational efficiency, and use of the avails of taxes deposited into the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

Present law requires the treasurer to deposit the avails of taxes from the sale, use, lease or rental, distribution, consumption, and storage for use or consumption of motor vehicles into the TTF. Proposed law removes this requirement and instead requires the legislature to appropriate the avails of these taxes to DOTD for operational costs.

Proposed law requires DOTD to utilize all other of means of finance to the extent possible prior to utilizing the funding authorized in proposed law.

Present law requires the treasurer to deposit an amount equal to an increase in general fund revenues as certified by the Revenue Estimating Conference as being attributable to certain mineral revenues, not in excess of \$100 million per fiscal year, to the TTF.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law requires DOTD to develop an online platform to provide the public access to Highway Priority Program project information.

Proposed law provides that projects in the Highway Priority Program shall have a designated total cost which shall include a prorated cost associated with third-party services required by the department to create, implement, and maintain the online platform.

Proposed law requires DOTD to utilize targeted digital technologies to raise public awareness of the online platform, to provide project updates to the public, and to seek the public's input on projects.

(Amends R.S. 48:77; Adds R.S. 48:71, 72, and 229.2)

