
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 640 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Bourriaque

Abstract: Establishes the office of Louisiana Highway Construction.

Proposed law specifies that it is the intent of the legislature to implement extraordinary measures to ensure that transportation infrastructure projects, including but not limited to roads and bridges, are planned, executed, and delivered in a manner that is expeditious, transparent, safe, and effective, thereby demonstrating accountability and responsiveness to the citizens of La.

Proposed law specifies that the office of La. Hwy. Construction is created in the office of the governor, division of administration.

Proposed law specifies that the office is responsible for the oversight and delivery of all aspects of nonfederal aid highways within the state system, including study, planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement, in coordination with relevant agencies.

Proposed law defines "office" as the office of La. Hwy. Construction.

Proposed law authorizes the office to contract with public and private entities for all phases of non-federal aid highway projects; accept and manage grants; use nonfederal funds and in-kind contributions for cost-share requirements; develop cost-sharing guidelines; enter cooperative agreements with local governments; exercise procurement procedures available to the Department of Transportation and Development in present law, and adopt rules to implement these provisions.

Proposed law authorizes the office to use services from other state agencies, receive various lawful funding sources, take any legal actions needed to carry out its duties, and engage in and utilize emergency procurement procedures for any purpose until Jan. 1, 2026.

Proposed law requires that by Jan. 15th each year, the office submit a report to the Joint Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works detailing all planned, initiated, or advanced projects, including their status, scope, funding sources, and timelines.

Proposed law specifies that the executive director of the office of La. Hwy. Construction is appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation, and serves at the governor's pleasure.

Proposed law authorizes the executive director to oversee the office's operations, management, and administration.

Proposed law specifies that the duties of the executive director include coordinating budget requests for office projects, aligning functions across state agencies for efficiency, and taking necessary actions to fulfill the office's responsibilities.

Proposed law specifies that the executive director may review and recommend changes to state policies affecting office projects and appoint advisory panels as needed.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 49:220.51-220.53)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide for the exercise of procurement procedures for any purpose by the office of Louisiana Highway Construction until Jan. 1, 2026.
2. Authorize the office of Louisiana Highway Construction to use the same procurement procedures available to the Department of Transportation and Development under present law.
3. Authorize the office of Louisiana Highway Construction to use emergency procurement procedures for any purpose through Jan. 1, 2026.
4. Make technical changes.