

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY SENATOR BARROW

TRAFFIC. To direct the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a study and report on road hazards on state highways and their impact on Louisiana residents.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct a study
3 and report on road hazards on state highways, their impact on Louisiana residents,
4 and develop practical policy recommendations.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)
6 is charged with the maintenance and improvement of over 16,000 miles of state-owned
7 roadways, including responsibility for addressing road hazards such as potholes, damaged
8 signage, debris, and deteriorating infrastructure; and

9 WHEREAS, road hazards can be considered a threat to public safety, a contributor
10 to vehicular damage, and a significant financial burden for Louisiana families and
11 businesses; and

12 WHEREAS, damage from road hazards such as potholes, may leave drivers and
13 low-income residents without recourse or protection; and

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development has legal staff
15 dedicated to the assessment and litigation of damage claims sustained on state highways; and

16 WHEREAS, data on claims, settlement and litigation payouts, and repair response
17 times to hazardous roads that cause damage to citizens should be readily transparent to the
18 public or policymakers; and

1 WHEREAS, other states, including New York, California, and Florida, have adopted
2 a range of legal, administrative, and fiscal approaches to road hazard claims and prevention,
3 such as mandatory reporting systems, dedicated funding streams, lower liability thresholds,
4 and innovative road user fee programs; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana would benefit from evaluating such national best practices
6 to enhance its own policies, funding strategies, and public accountability mechanisms; and

7 WHEREAS, addressing road hazards efficiently and equitably is not only a matter
8 of infrastructure maintenance but also a critical factor in advancing public safety, economic
9 productivity, and citizens' quality of life.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
11 does hereby direct the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to conduct
12 a comprehensive review and a report of other states and national best practices in
13 comparison to the department's current process to include all of the following:

14 (1) Access road hazard management practices, including maintenance protocols,
15 reporting systems, and average response times for damage claims.

16 (2) Compile and report data on the number of citizen claims filed for road
17 hazard-related damages, the number of claims approved or denied, the total and average
18 payout amounts, and the reasons for denials.

19 (3) Assess the financial and quality-of-life burdens caused by road hazards on
20 Louisiana residents, particularly lower-income and rural communities.

21 (4) Review relevant statutes and policies regarding liability, insurance coverage, and
22 sovereign immunity related to road hazard damages.

23 (5) Examine models and programs from other states that offer improved claim
24 processes, alternative funding mechanisms, or streamlined hazard reporting systems.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOTD shall develop policy
26 recommendations for improving road hazard mitigation and compensation procedures, to be
27 submitted in a report to the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public
28 Works and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, as required by R.S. 24:771,
29 no later than February 1, 2026.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

	DIGEST	
SR 178 Original	2025 Regular Session	Barrow

To direct the Louisiana DOTD to conduct a study and report on road hazards on state highways, their impact on Louisiana residents, and develop practical policy recommendations.