

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 828

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

BRIDGES/FERRIES: Creates the Crescent City Connection Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 47:820.5.6 and to repeal R.S. 47:820.5.3, relative to the Crescent City
3 Connection; to create the Crescent City Connection Commission; to provide for
4 membership, powers, and duties of the commission; to abolish the Crescent City
5 Connection Oversight Authority; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 47:820.5.6 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §820.5.6. Crescent City Connection Commission; creation; membership; duties; and
9 terms

10 A. The Crescent City Connection Commission is hereby created, and
11 hereinafter referred to as "the commission".

12 B. The object and purpose of the commission shall be to advise and
13 recommend to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development,
14 hereinafter referred to as "the department", on issues relative to the operations and
15 management of the Crescent City Connection Division, hereinafter referred to as "the
16 division".

17 C. The commission shall have the authority to advise and recommend on
18 issues relative to the following:

19 (1) The improvement and maintenance of the marine operations and the
20 Crescent City Connection bridges and those projects enumerated in R.S. 47:820.5.

1 (2) The appointment of executive management officers for the division.

2 (3) The development of an efficient toll and toll collection system and routes
3 for the marine division, including tolls on marine pedestrian passengers.

4 (4) Alternative sources of funding.

5 (5) The development of a plan for the cessation of tolls or continuation of the
6 tolls, alternative means of financing of any unfinished projects enumerated in R.S.
7 47:820.5, and the scheduled return of the marine and bridge operations of the
8 division to the department.

9 (6) The feasibility of the consolidation of the operations of the Crescent City
10 Connection Division into the Louisiana Transportation Authority.

11 (7) A cost reduction plan which consolidates the division's resources, staff,
12 and efforts with the department.

13 (8) The development of a plan on the feasibility and wisdom and a method
14 of financing, which places its police force under the supervision and direction of the
15 state police.

16 D.(1) The commission shall be composed of the following members, who
17 shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

18 (2)(a) Each of the state senators from Senate districts 1, 3, 7, and 8, and each
19 of the state representatives from House districts 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 93, 102, 104, and
20 105 shall submit the names of three persons to the governor. The governor shall
21 appoint one person from each of the enumerated Senate and House of
22 Representatives districts. Each nominee submitted to the governor for consideration
23 on the commission shall be a resident of Louisiana. To the extent possible the list
24 of names submitted by the legislators shall include persons who have special
25 competence in business, management, finance, law, and human resources.

26 (b) The governor shall appoint one member at large and the secretary
27 of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee shall
28 serve as chairman of the commission.

1 (c) The list of names shall be submitted to the governor no later than August
2 31, 2009. If the list is not timely submitted, the governor shall make the
3 appointments at large. The terms of the appointees shall commence on October 1,
4 2009, and shall terminate on December 31, 2012. The governor shall appoint one
5 member at large, who shall also be subject to confirmation by the Senate. The
6 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or his designee shall
7 serve as chairman of the commission.

8 (3) Commission members, other than the secretary or his designee, shall not
9 hold any public office nor serve on any other state board, commission, or authority.

10 E. Members of the commission shall be subject to the provisions of R.S.
11 42:1124.2.1.

12 F. The commission shall meet at least once every other month, and on the
13 call of the chairman, at its offices located in Algiers, Louisiana, and shall report its
14 business and status to the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways
15 and Public Works, and to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget at least
16 once a year.

17 Section 2. R.S. 47:820.5.3 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

18 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2009; if vetoed by the governor
19 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
20 2009, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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)]

Connick

HB No. 828

Abstract: Terminates the Crescent City Connection Oversight Authority and replaces it with the Crescent City Connection Commission.

Present law provides for the Crescent City Connection Oversight Authority (CCCOA), which shall establish priorities of projects from remaining funds after all operation and maintenance expenses of the bridges and ferries of the Crescent City Connection Division (CCCD) have been paid. The CCCOA shall consider the funding of projects approved by the legislature in accordance with R.S. 47:820.5 and shall have access to the accounting of

all expenditures, revenues, project priorities, status of ongoing projects, and any other matters which relate to the Crescent City Connection, its operations, and related projects.

Present law further provides that the CCCOA shall be comprised of 13 members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate from a list of three nominees submitted by each of the state senators from Senate districts 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and each of the state representatives from House districts 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 102, and 105. Members shall serve terms of four years; however, the first term shall commence on July 1, 1998, and terminate on June 30, 2000. Requires the CCCOA to report to the Senate and House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

Proposed law repeals present law and instead creates the Crescent City Connection Commission.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall advise and recommend to the secretary of DOTD on issues relative to the operations and management of the Crescent City Connection Division. Provides that the each senator from Senate districts 1, 3, 7, and 8, and each representative from House districts 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 93, 102, 104, and 105 shall submit three names of persons to the governor. Provides that each nominee submitted to the governor for consideration on the commission shall be a resident of Louisiana. Further provides that to the extent possible the list of names submitted by the legislators shall include persons who have special competence in business, management, finance, law, and human resources. Provides that the governor shall appoint one member at large and the secretary of DOTD or his designee shall be a member and shall serve as chairman.

Proposed law provides that the list of names shall be submitted to the governor no later than Aug. 31, 2009. If the list is not timely submitted, the governor shall make the appointments at large. The terms of the appointees shall commence on Oct. 1, 2009, and shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2012.

Proposed law subjects commission members to the disclosure requirements of R.S. 42:1124.2.1.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 47:820.5.6; Repeals R.S. 47:820.5.3)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill.

1. Changes the appointment process.
2. Removes qualifications required to be considered for appointment.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds the legislator from House District No. 93 to the list of nominators and removes the legislators from Senate Districts Nos. 5 and 6 from the list of nominators.
2. Removes the provisions for per diem and expense reimbursement.
3. Requires the commission to meet every other month instead of every month.