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## DIGEST

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Connick

HB No. 551

**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 and the public on issues relative to the future operations and management of the Crescent City Connection Division. The issues include:

- (1) The improvement and maintenance of the marine operations and the Crescent City Connection bridges and those projects enumerated in R.S. 47:820.5.
- (2) The development of a plan for the cessation of tolls or continuation of the tolls, alternative means of financing of any unfinished projects enumerated in R.S. 47:820.5, and the scheduled return of the marine and bridge operations of the division to the department.
- (3) The feasibility of the consolidation of the operations of the Crescent City Connection Division into the Louisiana Transportation Authority.

- (4) A cost reduction plan which consolidates the division's marine and bridge section resources, staff, and efforts with the department.
- (5) The development of a plan for the policing and traffic control on the Crescent City Connection Bridge and ferry operations after December 31, 2012.

Provides that the commission shall be composed of eight persons, appointed by the governor from a list of 16 names, two each submitted from the following eight organizations: Algiers Economic Development Foundation; Algiers Neighborhood Presidents Council; Friends of the Ferry; Bureau of Governmental Research; Harvey Canal Industrial Association; Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission; and Plaquemines Association of Businesses. Further provides that to the extent possible the list of names submitted by the organizations shall include persons who have special competence in business, management, finance, law, and human resources. Provides that 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 July 1, 2011. If the list is not timely submitted, the governor shall make the appointments at large. The terms of the appointees shall commence on August 1, 2011, and shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2012.

Proposed law prohibits commission members, other than the secretary or his designee, from holding any public office or serving on any other state board, commission, or authority, nor shall any member or his immediate family derive any income from any local, state, or federal governmental source.

Proposed law requires the commission to report its business and status to the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and to the Jefferson Parish and Orleans Parish legislative delegations, prior to March 1, 2012.

Effective July 1, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 47:820.5.8; Repeals R.S. 47:820.5.3)