# SLS 11RS-1065

### **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2011

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

TRANSPORTATION/DEV DEPT. Creates Task Force on the Crescent City Connection to analyze re-authorization of tolls, ferry services, and all components and management of the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and Development.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To authorize and direct creation of the "Task Force on the Crescent City Connection" to
3	analyze re-authorization of tolls, ferry services, and all components and management
4	of the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of
5	Transportation and Development; to provide for membership, powers, and duties of
6	the task force; to provide for a report of its business; and to provide for related
7	matters.
8	WHEREAS, tolls imposed upon the Crescent City Connection Bridge crossing the
9	Mississippi River at New Orleans, Louisiana, expire on December 31, 2012, as provided in
10	R.S. 47:820.5; and
11	WHEREAS, numerous westbank civic and business leadership organizations have
12	formed a "Regional Collaborative" and have requested creation of a task force to formally
13	evaluate the future of the Crescent City Connection Division, tolls, ferry service,
14	governance, and all related aspects of the Crescent City Connection Division's future
15	operations; and
16	WHEREAS, such "Regional Collaborative" recognizes that the anticipated changes
17	to the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and

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- Development will have a significant impact upon the business and civic communities in the
   greater New Orleans region.
- 3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
  4 authorize and direct the creation of the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection 6 is hereby created and shall be composed of nine persons who shall serve without 7 compensation from the task force. Each of the following organizations shall collaborate and 8 shall submit a list of two names each to the governor, from which the governor shall select 9 nine persons to serve as members of the task force:
- (1) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the Algiers
   Economic Development Foundation.
- (2) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the Harvey
  Canal Industrial Association and the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.
- 14 (3) One member representing business interests from names submitted by the15 Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry.
- 16 (4) One member representing civic interests from names submitted by the Westbank
  17 Redevelopment Corporation, Inc., and the Algiers Neighborhood President's Council.
- 18 (5) One member representing civic interests from names submitted by the West
  19 Jefferson Civic Association and The Terrytown Civic Association, Inc.
- 20 (6) One member representing maritime interests from names submitted by the Port
  21 of New Orleans, the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District, the Jefferson Parish
  22 Economic Development and Port District, and the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal
  23 District.
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(7) One member who is a professional engineer from names submitted by the Regional Planning Commission.

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(8) One member from names submitted by Friends of the Ferry of New Orleans.

- (9) One member with experience in law enforcement from names submitted by the
  New Orleans Police Department, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, the Gretna Police
  Department, the Westwego Police Department, and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.
- 30 The lists of names shall be submitted to the governor no later than July 1, 2011. If a list is

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not timely submitted, the governor shall make the selections at large. The governor shall
 select the members no later than July 15, 2011. The term of the members shall commence
 on August 1, 2011, and shall terminate on March 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial meeting of the task force shall be convened no later than August 1, 2011, by the office of the governor at a time and place in New Orleans, Louisiana, chosen by the office. At such initial meeting, the members of the task force shall select from among its membership a chair. The Task Force on the Crescent City Connection shall provide for the manner and frequency of meetings that will be conducted and for all other ancillary administrative matters which must be determined in order to function as a task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall have unrestricted access to all records and information relevant to its mission and maintained by the Department of Transportation and Development and the Crescent City Connection Division and that the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or her designee shall fully cooperate with and provide records and information to the task force.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall be authorized and directed to study, evaluate, analyze, and review all aspects of the operation of the Crescent City 17 18 Connection Division, including but not limited to, financial studies, audits, reports, and 19 regional and national best practices regarding the following areas: 1) structure of 20 administration; 2) governance; 3) current and future maintenance of the bridge structure, 21 including all ramps and ancillary areas within its jurisdiction; 4) need for a well-trained 22 professional police force; 5) potential sources and uses of all revenues, including consideration of bond capacity for predetermined infrastructure improvements; and, 6) 23 24 administration, maintenance, and costs to operate the ferry service system.

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection
  shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate
  Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works no later than March 1, 2012,
  and such task force shall officially terminate upon submission of the report.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
   secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development; the Algiers Economic

1 Development Foundation; the Harvey Canal Industrial Association; the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry; the Westbank 2 3 Redevelopment Corporation, Inc.; the Algiers Neighborhood President's Council; the West 4 Jefferson Civic Association; The Terrytown Civic Association, Inc.; the Port of New Orleans; the Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District; the Jefferson Parish Economic 5 Development and Port District; and the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District; the 6 7 Regional Planning Commission; Friends of the Ferry of New Orleans; the New Orleans 8 Police Department; the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office; the Gretna Police Department; the 9 Westwego Police Department; and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

#### DIGEST

Heitmeier

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Authorizes and directs creation of the Task Force on the Crescent City Connection comprising nine members; the governor selects members from names submitted by members of the "Regional Collaborative" and others to study, evaluate, analyze, and review the operation of the Crescent City Connection Division of the Department of Transportation and Development and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works by March 1, 2012.