

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY SENATORS BROWN, GARY SMITH AND WARD AND REPRESENTATIVES
GAINES, MILLER, PRICE, SCHEXNAYDER AND ST. GERMAIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to continue operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries and to prescribe and collect equitable ferry charges to supplement state funds necessary to continue operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries.

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Commission on Streamlining Government issued its "Reorganization Plan" which plan recommended that the Department of Transportation and Development eliminate four ferry routes (Melville, White Castle, Reserve, and New Roads); and

WHEREAS, the department has eliminated the Melville and New Roads ferry routes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and Development plans to eliminate the ferry routes and to cease operations of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries across the Mississippi River on June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Edgard/Reserve ferry route, Louisiana Highway 640, and the White Castle ferry route, Louisiana Highway 3075, are infrastructures that are critical to tens of thousands of Louisiana's residents who use these ferry routes daily to cross the Mississippi River to commute to and from their places of employment; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway 640 Edgard/Reserve ferry route connects Louisiana Highway 18 (west bank) across the Mississippi River to Louisiana Highway 44 (east bank); and

WHEREAS, the nearest alternative detour route to the Edgard/Reserve ferry route across the Mississippi River is a distance of twenty-one miles via the Gramercy Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Highway 3075 White Castle ferry route connects

Louisiana Highway 405 (west bank) and Louisiana Highway 141 (east bank); and

WHEREAS, the nearest alternative detour route to the White Castle ferry route across the Mississippi River is a distance of twenty-two miles via the Plaquemine ferry or forty-two miles via the Sunshine Bridge; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 48:25 authorizes the department to prescribe and collect such ferry charges as it determines necessary to maintain ferry services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to continue operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to prescribe and collect ferry charges to supplement state funds to continue the operation of the Edgard/Reserve and White Castle ferries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES