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

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## DIGEST

Present law provides for DOTD to take over, operate, and regulate the ferries formerly operated by the CCCD and authorizes it to collect fees, tolls, fares, or ferry charges it deems necessary to operate, maintain, and replace the ferry service; provides that DOTD may privatize, franchise, or enter into contracts for ferry service alone or jointly with parishes or municipalities; requires any contract or franchise agreement with a non-public entity to contain a provision which appoints the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) as advisor to the ferry service contractor; authorizes RPC to follow its customary procedures to satisfy the advisory function; provides that if DOTD enters into such a contract or agreement with a non-public entity the provisions of law which provide free passage on toll ferries for the Boy and Girls Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls, and all employees of parish governing authorities in official vehicles in their passage to and from work on an official project shall not apply.

Proposed law requires DOTD to own, and provide insurance and contribute not less than \$4,000,000 annually from its operating budget for the continued operation of the Canal Street and Chalmette ferries; requires the RPC to establish ferry fares and to contract with a public or private ferry service operator; requires the RPC to use best practices to operate the ferry system and collect ferry fares; authorizes the RPC to set a tourist rate or a non-commuter rate; requires that all ferry fares collected be used to operate and maintain the Canal Street and Chalmette ferry system.

Proposed law provides for creation of the New Orleans Ferry Fund and dedicates registration and license fees and taxes on trucks and trailers which are collected in Orleans Parish, subject to appropriation, to DOTD for operation of the New Orleans ferries until June 30, 2018; provides that these funds are in addition to but not less than \$4,000,000 DOTD contributes from its operating budget.

(Amends R.S. 47:481; R.S. 48:25.1 and 196(A)(intro para); adds R.S. 48:25.2)