

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 723

BY SENATORS APPEL, ALARIO, ALLAIN, BROOME, CHABERT, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, RISER, GARY SMITH, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES BROSSETT AND LEGER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Creates the Louisiana International Commerce Initiative. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 54 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 51:3111 through 3118, relative to the Louisiana International Commerce
4 Initiative; to create the office of international commerce within the Department of
5 Economic Development; to create the Louisiana Board of International Commerce;
6 to provide for membership of the board; to provide for powers and duties of the
7 board; to provide for definitions, terms, procedures, and conditions; to provide for
8 development of a master international trade plan and an annual report; to provide for
9 legislative oversight; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. Chapter 54 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
12 comprised of R.S. 51:3111 through 3118 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 **CHAPTER 54. LOUISIANA INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE INITIATIVE**

14 **§3111. Purpose**

15 **The provisions of this Chapter establish the office of international**
16 **commerce within the Department of Economic Development to serve as the**
17 **authority on behalf of the state to advance the state's international commerce**

1 economic sector. The office of international commerce shall achieve this
2 objective by utilizing the state's public and private resources to strategically
3 develop and enhance Louisiana's participation and competitiveness in
4 international trade, by attracting foreign and domestic investment and trade
5 related corporate business into the state, and by developing manufacturing,
6 corporate, and service business activity based upon Louisiana's trade economy.

7 §3112. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings
9 ascribed to them below:

10 (1) "Board" means the Louisiana Board of International Commerce.

11 (2) "Department" means the Department of Economic Development.

12 (3) "Initiative" means the Louisiana International Commerce Initiative.

13 (4) "International ports" means those ports, commonly known as deep
14 draft ports, whose main function is waterborne commerce, both import and
15 export, directly linked to world commerce. These ports include, but are not
16 limited to, the following:

17 (a) Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

18 (b) Lake Charles Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

19 (c) Port of New Orleans.

20 (d) Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

21 (e) St. Bernard, Harbor and Terminal District.

22 (f) Port of South Louisiana.

23 (5) "Inland ports" means those ports, commonly known as shallow draft
24 ports, engaged in waterborne commerce whose cargoes depend upon import or
25 export through international ports for connection to world markets.

26 (6) "International trade" means a two-tiered, integrated economic
27 sector concentrating upon the state's unique position in world commerce. Tier
28 one shall be defined as business activity in the areas of waterborne or airborne
29 commerce, manufacturing related to imported and exported products and

1 services, other international activities, and corporate business activity resulting
2 from the state's engagement in international commerce. Tier two shall be
3 defined as inland transportation connectors, including water, highway, and rail,
4 air transportation, airborne passenger travel, assembly and distribution, free
5 trade zones, and other support business activities including but not limited to
6 finance, insurance, suppliers of materials, legal, insurances, brokerage, freight
7 forwarding, and other such services.

8 (7) "Master plan" means the Master Plan of International Commerce.

9 (8) "Office" means the office of international commerce within the
10 Department of Economic Development.

11 (9) "Project" means but is not limited to the construction of a physical
12 asset and associated infrastructure to be used in the course of the business of
13 international trade, a business activity such as a marketing effort or the
14 development of a business relationship, or an executable strategy such as joint
15 ventures between governmental and nongovernmental agencies or businesses.
16 Projects may be undertaken by either the office or another agency as described
17 in this Chapter. For purposes of this Chapter, each project shall have a cost of
18 more than one million dollars. As it relates to ports, projects of any inland port
19 or projects from any port or harbor district other than an international port
20 shall not be included in the meaning of "project".

21 (10) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Economic
22 Development.

23 §3113. Office of international commerce

24 A. The office of international commerce is hereby created as an office
25 within the Department of Economic Development.

26 B. The office shall include the secretary, the executive director of
27 international commerce, staff of the department assigned to the office, the
28 board, any advisory subcommittee appointed by the chairman of the board, and
29 staff of the board and any advisory subcommittee.

1 **§3114. Powers and duties of the secretary and executive director**

2 **A. The secretary shall administer and enforce the provisions of this**
3 **Chapter relating to duties and activities of the office, the board, and advisory**
4 **subcommittees of the board.**

5 **B. The secretary may execute partnerships, joint ventures, memoranda**
6 **of understanding, cooperative endeavors, or other similar relationships with**
7 **local, state, or federal public entities, foreign governments, or private entities**
8 **and business interests to implement the master plan. Such state public entities**
9 **shall include but are not limited to the following: the Department of**
10 **Transportation and Development, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry,**
11 **and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.**

12 **C. The executive director of the office of international commerce shall**
13 **report directly to the secretary.**

14 **D. The secretary and the executive director shall represent the board in**
15 **all matters.**

16 **E. The secretary and the executive director shall represent the policy**
17 **and viewpoints of the office at foreign, state, regional, and local levels.**

18 **§3115. Louisiana Board of International Commerce**

19 **A. The Louisiana Board of International Commerce is hereby created**
20 **within the office of international commerce of the Department of Economic**
21 **Development. The board shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge.**

22 **B. The board shall exercise, subject to the provisions of this Chapter, the**
23 **following duties:**

24 **(1) Develop, coordinate, implement, make reports on, manage, and**
25 **provide oversight of the Master International Trade Plan and prepare annual**
26 **reports to the legislature. The master plan shall position Louisiana as a leader**
27 **in international commerce and trade and shall include a comprehensive strategy**
28 **addressing all matters of international trade and commerce for the state of**
29 **Louisiana. An annual report shall monitor the progress of the implementation**

1 of the master plan and shall be submitted to the legislature for approval as set
2 forth in R.S. 51:3117.

3 (2) Develop and execute a strategy to coordinate planning, marketing,
4 and resources between all private or nongovernmental organizations, private
5 business interests, international ports, the department, other departments of
6 state government, including the Department of Transportation and
7 Development, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of
8 Culture, Recreation and Tourism, and any other federal or state governmental
9 agency involved in international commerce.

10 (3) Establish criteria for projects to be included in the master plan and
11 use these criteria to evaluate and approve projects for inclusion in the master
12 plan that are submitted by the organizations, entities, or persons provided in
13 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

14 (4) Include in the master plan projects approved by the board.

15 (5) Include in the annual report a detailed description of each project
16 included in the master plan, and the current status of approved projects.

17 (6) Create a mechanism to establish priorities of the approved projects
18 and establish a procedure for the use of the priority system to control the order
19 in which projects included in the master plan are executed.

20 (7) Coordinate and assist the organizations, entities, or persons
21 described in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection in its development and execution
22 of projects that are approved by the board as being consistent with the
23 comprehensive strategy of the master plan and in the priority order established
24 by the board. Such assistance by the board shall include but not be limited to
25 coordination between governmental and nongovernmental agencies as well as
26 assistance with the identification of capital resources for the use of
27 organizations that develop projects.

28 (8) Develop, coordinate, and monitor implementation of a state strategy
29 to attract foreign direct investment and to attract international corporate

1 business to Louisiana.

2 (9) Identify, solicit, and recommend to the secretary, partnerships, joint
3 ventures, memoranda of understanding, cooperative endeavors, or other similar
4 relationships with local, state, or federal public entities, foreign governments,
5 or private entities and business interests to implement the master plan. Such
6 public entities shall include but are not limited to the following: the Department
7 of Transportation and Development, the Department of Agriculture and
8 Forestry, and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

9 (10) Identify, accept, obtain or assist in obtaining, foreign, federal, state,
10 and private funds consistent with the provisions of this Chapter. Such funds
11 shall include funds from matching sources, gifts, grants, and donations.

12 (11) Develop and implement methods to self-generate funds. Such
13 funds obtained consistent with the provisions of this Chapter shall be used solely
14 for the operations of the office and execution of projects included in the master
15 plan.

16 (12) Identify funding sources for infrastructure that is required to
17 support projects or existing facilities and assist organizations, entities, or
18 persons provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection to enter into business
19 relationships, such as public-private partnerships, to secure funding for such
20 infrastructure.

21 (13) Conduct meetings and hold hearings.

22 (14) Adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act
23 consistent with the provisions of this Chapter.

24 (15) As determined by the board, the chairman shall appoint advisory
25 subcommittees to review, evaluate, and report to the board on projects
26 proposed for inclusion in the master plan or for other purposes as approved by
27 the board. In accordance with the scope of the subcommittee's work, the
28 subcommittee may include non-board personnel. Such personnel shall not be
29 compensated by the board. The board may request the secretary to engage

1 experts to assist the board in performing its functions and duties. Every effort
2 shall be made to utilize the staff of the office, department, international ports,
3 nongovernmental organizations, or state universities prior to the engagement
4 of outside experts.

5 (16) Establish a recommended annual budget for the operation of the
6 office and submit such recommended budget to the secretary for inclusion in the
7 department's annual budget. Funding of the office for the first year of
8 operation shall be derived from existing department resources and funds.
9 Details of the office's revenues and expenses, including its recommended annual
10 budget, shall be included in the annual report.

11 (17) Expend funds consistent with the provisions of this Chapter.

12 (18) Recommend that the secretary enter into agreements, memoranda
13 of understanding, and cooperative endeavors with foreign governments, private
14 entities, nongovernmental agencies, and local, state, and federal public entities
15 that are consistent with the provisions of this Chapter.

16 (19) Provide recommendations to the legislature with respect to the
17 implementation, management, and funding of the office.

18 (20) Present recommendations to the House Committee on Commerce
19 and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
20 International Affairs by February first of each year for proposed legislation
21 consistent with the comprehensive strategy of the master plan and the
22 provisions of this Chapter.

23 (21) Advise the secretary on any matter regarding the office.

24 §3116. Membership of board

25 A. The board shall consist of the following members:

26 (1) The secretary of the department or his designee.

27 (2) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development
28 or his designee.

29 (3) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or

1 his designee.

2 (4) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
3 or his designee.

4 (5)(a) Eight members appointed by the governor who represent regional
5 economic development agencies in the state. Such members shall, to the
6 greatest extent possible, be engaged in international trade business. The
7 governor shall make the appointment from a list of names submitted by the
8 following organizations:

9 (i) Greater New Orleans, Inc.

10 (ii) Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

11 (iii) Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance.

12 (iv) Southwest Louisiana Partnership for Economic Development.

13 (v) North Louisiana Economic Partnership.

14 (vi) Acadiana Economic Development Authority.

15 (vii) Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance.

16 (viii) Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

17 (ix) South Louisiana Economic Council.

18 (b) Each organization shall submit two names to the governor.

19 (6)(a) Four members appointed by the governor, of which two members
20 shall represent international business, and two members shall represent
21 manufacturing business relating to international trade. The governor shall
22 make the appointments from a list of names submitted by the following
23 organizations:

24 (i) Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

25 (ii) The National Federation of Independent Business.

26 (iii) The World Trade Center New Orleans.

27 (iv) The Louisiana Chemical Association.

28 (v) New Orleans Board of Trade.

29 (b) Each organization shall submit two names to the governor.

1 (7)(a) Six members appointed by the governor who represent
2 international ports. The governor shall make the appointments from a list of
3 names submitted by the following:

4 (i) Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

5 (ii) Lake Charles Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

6 (iii) Port of New Orleans.

7 (iv) Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

8 (v) St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

9 (vi) Port of South Louisiana.

10 (b) Each port shall submit two names to the governor. The governor
11 shall select at least one representative from each of the ports submitting
12 nominations.

13 (8)(a) One member appointed by the governor to represent the state's
14 airports. The governor shall make the appointments from a list of names
15 submitted by the following:

16 (i) Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport.

17 (ii) The Chennault International Airport Authority.

18 (iii) Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

19 (iv) Shreveport Regional Airport.

20 (v) England Airpark.

21 (vi) Lafayette Regional Airport.

22 (vii) Monroe Regional Airport.

23 (b) Each airport shall submit two names to the governor. The governor
24 shall select at least one representative from each of the ports submitting
25 nominations.

26 B. The initial appointed members of the board shall be appointed no
27 later than October 1, 2012.

28 C. Initial appointments to the board shall be for terms as follows:

29 (1) Two members representing regional economic development agencies

1 in Louisiana, one member representing international business, one member
2 representing manufacturing business relating to international trade, two
3 members representing international ports, and one member representing the
4 state's airports shall be appointed for two years.

5 (2) Two members representing regional economic development agencies
6 in Louisiana, one member representing international business, one member
7 representing manufacturing business relating to international trade, and two
8 members representing international ports shall be appointed for one year.

9 (3) After the initial appointment provided for in Paragraphs (1) and (2)
10 of this Subsection, all members shall serve for a five-year term. Each member
11 shall serve until their successor is appointed.

12 D. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
13 appointments for the unexpired portion of the term.

14 E. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for
15 the transaction of business. The vote of a majority of the members of the board
16 present and voting, a quorum being present, shall be required for any official
17 action of the board.

18 F. The board shall hold its first meeting at its domicile no later than
19 December 1, 2012, and shall meet monthly thereafter, on a date and a time and
20 place as the board may designate. The board may meet at such other times as
21 deemed necessary by the chairman or by the majority of its members.

22 G. At the initial meeting of the board, the board shall elect from its
23 membership a chairman and such other officers as it deems necessary to carry
24 out the duties and functions of the board. All officers shall be members of the
25 board. Such officers shall constitute an executive committee, which shall
26 conduct certain business activities as authorized by the board during such times
27 as the board is not in session.

28 H. Board members shall not receive any salary for their duties as
29 members. The members may receive a mileage allowance for traveling to and

1 from meetings and for other travel authorized by the board at a rate not to
2 exceed the mileage rate for state employees.

3 §3117. Master Plan of International Commerce and annual report

4 A.(1)(a) The board shall, in accordance with the procedures set forth in
5 this Chapter, develop a Master Plan of International Commerce to position
6 Louisiana as a leader in international trade. Such master plan shall include
7 projects that are consistent with objectives of this Chapter.

8 (b) The board, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this
9 Chapter, including legislative approval, shall review, revise, and amend the
10 master plan when necessary or, at a minimum, every year.

11 (2) The annual report, at a minimum, shall include the following
12 information:

13 (a) Status of the office.

14 (b) All projects approved by the board, including the priority and status
15 of each project.

16 (c) Project proposals submitted to the board for inclusion in the master
17 plan and the timeline for such proposals.

18 (d) Benchmarks to be used as measurement of the progress of the office.

19 (e) Details as to the status of benchmarks defined in earlier reports,
20 future planning efforts, and the status of other major elements detailed in the
21 master plan.

22 (f) A list of office staff and each person's responsibilities and a financial
23 report of the recommended budget, provided in R.S. 51:3115(B)(16).

24 B.(1) Except as specified in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, only
25 projects included in the master plan shall be eligible for assistance, financial,
26 technical, or otherwise, from the office or department. However, nothing in this
27 Subparagraph shall prohibit any party from receiving funding for projects
28 directly through the legislative process set forth in this Subsection, provided
29 such project proposal was first submitted to the board for evaluation and

1 inclusion in the master plan.

2 (a) Any person or entity may submit a project proposal to the board for
3 consideration to be included in the master plan. The board shall promptly
4 consider the project and shall approve such projects for inclusion in the master
5 plan only if they are consistent with the comprehensive strategy of the master
6 plan. Every project submitted to the board shall include a return on investment
7 analysis in a form acceptable to the department. The board shall place
8 emphasis on the results of the return on investment analysis when determining
9 whether to approve the project.

10 (b) If, after consideration, the board approves the project, the board
11 shall notify the person or entity of such approval and shall assist such person or
12 entity as provided by this Chapter.

13 (c) If, after consideration, the project is not approved by the board, the
14 board shall notify the person or entity in writing of its decision. In addition, the
15 board shall submit a written evaluation, including the return on investment
16 analysis, of such project to the secretary of the Department of Transportation
17 and Development, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
18 Committee on Finance, and the division of administration. Nothing in this Item
19 shall be construed to prohibit any person or entity from resubmitting a project
20 proposal for consideration by the board.

21 (2) Nothing in this Chapter shall preclude or restrict any of the
22 organizations, entities, or persons provided in R.S. 51:3115(B)(2) or any private
23 or nongovernmental party from independently developing and executing
24 projects that are not approved by the board. Such projects shall comply with
25 all applicable laws, rules, and regulations but shall not be eligible to receive the
26 assistance of the office or the department, except as provided in Paragraph (3)
27 of this Subsection.

28 (3) Any of the organizations, entities, or persons provided in R.S.
29 51:3115(B)(2) or any private or nongovernmental party may apply for funding

1 for nonapproved projects in accordance with all applicable laws and
2 procedures. The legislature shall be provided the evaluation submitted by the
3 board in accordance with Subparagraph (1)(c) of this Subsection when
4 determining whether to fund such project or provide legislative incentives of
5 any kind for the project or to the organization, entity, or person proposing such
6 project.

7 (4) The department may identify, plan, and develop projects including
8 those relating to international trade without submitting them to the board for
9 approval as being consistent with the master plan. Such projects may be
10 developed by the department independent of the board.

11 C.(1)(a) The master plan shall be submitted to the House Committee on
12 Commerce, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and
13 International Affairs, the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and
14 Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and
15 Public Works for approval on or before the fifteenth day of the regular
16 legislative session of each year.

17 (b) If any committee disapproves the master plan, it shall send the
18 master plan back to the board together with a brief summary of the reasons for
19 disapproval and may make recommendations concerning changes it deems
20 necessary or appropriate to remedy any deficiencies in the plan.

21 (c) After approval of the committees, the legislature may approve or
22 disapprove the master plan by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the
23 members of each house of the legislature. If the legislature disapproves the
24 master plan, it shall include in the resolution a brief summary of the reasons for
25 disapproval and may make recommendations concerning any changes it deems
26 necessary or appropriate to remedy any deficiencies in the master plan.

27 (d) If the legislature approves the master plan, or if the legislature fails
28 to take action on the master plan within sixty days after the plan is submitted,
29 the board shall implement the plan as submitted.

1 (e) At any time subsequent to the adoption or implementation of the
2 master plan in accordance with the procedure set forth in this Chapter, the
3 board may amend or supplement the plan or add or delete projects. No project
4 shall be added or deleted unless and until the amendment to the master plan is
5 approved as provided by this Section. However, if such project is added or
6 deleted while the legislature is not in session, the board shall submit the addition
7 or deletion to the master plan to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
8 for approval.

9 (2) Annual reports shall be submitted to the House Committee on
10 Commerce, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and
11 International Affairs, the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and
12 Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and
13 Public Works on or before the fifteenth day of the regular legislative session of
14 each year.

15 §3118. Exceptions

16 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this
17 Chapter shall be construed to affect the Port Construction and Development
18 Priority Program, R.S. 34:3451 et seq.

19 B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, nothing in this
20 Chapter shall be construed to affect the Airport Construction and Development
21 Priority Program, R.S. 2:801 et seq.

22 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
23 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
24 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
25 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
26 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Michelle Ducharme. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jeanne Johnston.

DIGEST

Appel (SB 723)

Proposed law creates the Louisiana International Commerce Initiative (Initiative) and creates the office of international commerce within the Department of Economic Development (department).

Proposed law provides that the office shall serve as the authority on behalf of the state to advance the state's international commerce economic sector.

Proposed law defines the following terms: "board", "department", "Initiative", "international ports", "inland ports", "international trade", "master plan", "office", "project" and "secretary".

Proposed law provides that each project shall have a cost of more than one million dollars and excludes projects of inland ports or harbor districts, other than an international port, from the definition of "project".

Proposed law provides that the office shall include the secretary, the executive director of international commerce, staff of the department assigned to the office, the board, any advisory subcommittee appointed by the chairman of the board, and staff of the board and any advisory subcommittee.

Proposed law provides for the powers and duties of the secretary and executive director of international commerce.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Board of International Commerce (board) and provides for duties of the board.

Proposed law provides for membership of the board, appointments, terms of the members, and vacancies of the board.

Proposed law provides that the board shall hold its first meeting at its domicile no later than December 1, 2012, and shall meet monthly thereafter, on a date and a time and place as the board may designate. The board may meet at such other times as deemed necessary by the chairman or by the majority of its members.

Proposed law provides for the election of officers of the board.

Proposed law provides that board members shall not receive any salary for their duties as members, but may receive a mileage allowance for traveling to and from meetings and for other travel authorized by the board at a rate not to exceed the mileage rate for state employees.

Proposed law provides the board shall develop a Master Plan of International Commerce to position Louisiana as a leader in international trade. Such master plan shall include projects that are consistent with objectives of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the board shall review, revise, and amend the master plan when necessary or, at a minimum, every year, subject to legislative approval.

Proposed law provides that the annual report shall include the following information:

1. Status of the office.
2. All projects approved by the board, including the priority and status of each project.
3. Project proposals submitted to the board for inclusion in the master plan and the time line for such proposals.
4. Benchmarks to be used as measurement of the progress of the office.
5. Details as to the status of benchmarks defined in earlier reports, future planning efforts, and the status of other major elements detailed in the master plan.
6. A list of the office's staff and each person's responsibilities and a financial report of the budget as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that only projects included in the master plan or the annual report shall be eligible for assistance, financial, technical, or otherwise, from the office or department. However, nothing shall prohibit any party from receiving funding for projects directly through the legislative process, provided such project proposal was first submitted to the board for evaluation and inclusion in the master plan.

Proposed law provides that any person or entity may submit a project proposal to the board for consideration to be included in the master plan. The board shall promptly consider the project and shall only approve projects for inclusion in the master plan that are consistent with the comprehensive strategy of the master plan.

Proposed law provides that each project submitted shall include a return on investment analysis which shall be given emphasis by the board when determining whether to approve a project.

Proposed law requires the board to notify the person or entity if the board approves or disapproves a project proposal. If the project is not approved by the board, the board shall submit a written evaluation, including the return on investment analysis, of such project to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall preclude or restrict any of the organizations provided for in proposed law or any private or nongovernmental party or parties from independently developing and executing projects that are not approved by the board. Such projects shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations and shall not be eligible to receive the assistance of the office or department, except as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that any of the organizations, entities, or persons provided in proposed law or any private or nongovernmental party may apply for funding for nonapproved projects in accordance with all applicable laws and procedures. The legislature shall be provided the evaluation submitted by the board when determining whether to fund a project or provide legislative incentives of any kind for the project or to the organization, entity, or person proposing such project.

Proposed law provides that the department may identify, plan, and develop projects independently of the board and without submitting such projects to the board for approval.

Proposed law provides that the initial master plan shall be submitted to the House Committee on Commerce, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works on or before the 15th day of the regular legislative session each year.

Proposed law provides that if any of the specified legislative committees disapproves the master plan, it shall send the master plan back to the board together with a brief summary of the reasons for disapproval and may make recommendations concerning changes it deems necessary or appropriate to remedy any deficiencies in the plan.

Proposed law provides that after approval of the committees, the legislature may approve or disapprove the master plan by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of each house of the legislature. Further provides that if the legislature disapproves the master plan, it shall include in the resolution a brief summary of the reasons for disapproval and may make recommendations concerning any changes it deems necessary or appropriate to remedy any deficiencies in the master plan.

Proposed law provides that if the legislature approves the master plan, or if the legislature fails to take action on the master plan within 60 days after the plan is submitted, the board shall implement the plan as submitted.

Proposed law provides that subsequent to the adoption or implementation of the master plan, the board may amend or supplement the plan or add or delete projects, provided that no project shall be added or deleted unless and until the amendment to the master plan is approved as provided in proposed law. Provides that if a project is added or deleted while the legislature is not in session, the board shall submit the addition or deletion to the master plan to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for approval.

Proposed law requires the annual reports to be submitted to the House Committee on Commerce, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, the House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works on or before the 15th day of the regular legislative session of each year.

The provisions of proposed law shall not be construed to affect the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 51:3111-3118)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Defines "board", "office", and "secretary".
2. Creates the office of international commerce with the Department of Economic Development.
3. Changes "deputy secretary" to "executive director".
4. Provides for duties of the secretary and the executive director of international commerce.
5. Changes the board's name from "Louisiana International Trade Initiative Board" to "Louisiana Board of International Commerce".
6. Provides for duties of the board.
7. Provides that the board may request the secretary of the Department of

Economic Development to engage experts.

8. Adds two airports to the list of nominating entities for board membership.
9. Provides that the board must submit a written evaluation of any project not approved by the board to the secretary of Department of Transportation and Development, House Committee on Appropriations, Senate Committee on Finance, and the division of administration.
10. Provides that the legislature shall use the written evaluation when determining whether to fund such project or provide legislative incentives of any kind for the project or to the organization, entity, or person proposing such project.
11. Provides that provisions of proposed law shall not apply to the Port Construction and Development Priority Program and the Department of Transportation and Development Aviation Trust Fund.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical corrections.
2. Changes name of initiative from the "Louisiana International Trade Initiative" to the "Louisiana International Commerce Initiative".
3. Renames the "Master International Trade Plan" as the "Master Plan of International Commerce".
4. Increases the number of gubernatorial appointees representing regional economic development agencies from four to eight.
5. Deletes the Cenla Advantage Partnership and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority from the list of organizations submitting names for consideration for gubernatorial appointment to the board and adds the Central La. Economic Development Alliance and the Acadiana Economic Development Authority to such list.
6. Increases the number of members representing international ports to be appointed to the board by the governor from four to six.
7. Requires the governor to select at least one representative from each of the ports submitting nominations for board membership.
8. Adds the Chennault International Airport Authority and the Monroe Regional Airport to the list of airports submitting names for gubernatorial appointments to the board to represent the state's airports.
9. Clarifies that a majority of the board membership constitutes a quorum.
10. Provides that the board shall meet monthly instead of quarterly.
11. Provides for legislative approval of the master plan and revisions and amendments thereto.
12. Requires each project submitted for board approval to include a return on investment analysis which shall be given emphasis in board consideration of project approval.

13. Allows the department to identify, plan, and develop projects independently of the board and without being submitted for board approval.
14. Provides that the master plan be submitted to specified legislative committees on or before the 15th day of each regular legislative session.
15. Provides a procedure for legislative approval of the master plan and revisions or amendments thereto.
16. Provides that proposed law shall not be construed as to affect the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program.