

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Ryan Burks
Judy B. Songy
Robbie P. LeBlanc
Stanley Bazile
Whitney Hickerson
Louis A. Joseph
Katie Klibert
Joey Murray
D. Paul Robichaux

Paul Matthews,
Executive Director



NEWS RELEASE – August 1, 2022

Contacts:

Alexandra 'Alex' Hernández, Public Info Officer
985-652-9278 X7010
ahernandez@portsl.com

Micah Cormier, Director of Communications
985-652-9278 X2114
mcormier@portsl.com

PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA CELEBRATES ENACTMENT OF NEW INNOVATIVE LAW TACKLING SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES AND SPURRING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Reserve, LA.

Port of South Louisiana Chief Executive Officer Paul Matthews celebrates the enactment of [Act 551 by Senator Gary Smith, Jr.](#), which will significantly address the supply chain and traffic issues that consumers are facing every day. This Act, which became effective upon Governor Edwards' signature on June 17th, allows for the permitting of a single truck driver to haul two containers both headed to a port or to pick-up two containers from a port and take to their destinations.

"From baby formula to fuel, our nation is struggling to get goods to American families. As America's leading grain exporter, a top energy transfer port and one of the Western Hemisphere's largest tonnage ports, the Port of South Louisiana is ground zero for getting those goods and products from point A to point B in the most efficient manner," said Paul Matthews. "Sen. Smith's legislation is the product of our region's ports working together to find for consumers and commuters every single day. We're grateful for his leadership and our entire legislative delegation's support in getting this across the goal line."

Experts believe there is a shortage of 80,000 truck drivers in the United States. This is one of the contributing reasons Americans are seeing more and more supply chain delays and increased pricing. As east and west coast ports are seeing heavy congestion and vessel back-ups, Louisiana ports have the opportunity to establish themselves as a transportation

— America's Leading Grain Exporter —   

innovator across the United States. Act 551 reduces congestion by cutting the number of truck cabs inside of the port. This innovation has the potential to attract further business to Louisiana ports and away from west and east coast ports by establishing a system that increases loading and unloading efficiency and decreases shipper transportation costs and delays.

“With my district being home to the Port of South Louisiana, I took special interest in meeting with Port officials, marine terminal operators, truckers and ocean carrier customers on developing innovative solutions to alleviate the current bottlenecks and delays,” said Senator Gary Smith, Jr. “I am proud to have authored this successful legislation that will address some of the logistical issues here in Louisiana and unleash our state to lead the way on innovative methods to make commerce more efficient.”

About [Louisiana Act 551 by Senator Gary Smith, Jr.](#)

New law requires the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to issue a biannual permit for the operation of a combination of vehicles or tandem loads hauling divisible or non-divisible container imports or exports to and from any port facility in the state, provided the combination of vehicles or tandem loads meet all the following requirements:

- (1) Does not exceed 140,000 pounds gross weight.
- (2) Does not exceed 40,000 pounds per tandem axle spread and 60,000 per tridem axle spread as defined by the Department of Transportation and Development.
- (3) Does not exceed 83 ft. in length.
- (4) Is equipped with a dual-axle dolly and a dolly safety system with tilt sensors attached to the dolly that provide feedback on tilt information to the driver of the vehicle to ensure safe operations.

New law provides that the permits and route via state and federal roadways, excluding the interstate system, shall be issued at the truck permit office of the department.

New law requires the secretary to adopt rules to implement new law.

New law has a sunset date of August 1, 2026.

Effective June 17, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 32:387.2)

About the Port of South Louisiana

Founded in 1960, the Port of South Louisiana [PSL] is a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, encompassing the parishes of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. James. The facilities located within the port's district consistently handle over a quarter billion short tons of cargo annually, ranking it one of the largest tonnage ports in the Western Hemisphere [and the 16th largest in the world], the nation's leading grain exporter, and one of the major energy transfer ports in the United States. Along the 108 miles of deep-water frontage on both banks of the river there are seven grain transfer facilities, four major oil refineries, 11 petrochemical manufacturing facilities and several other facilities for a total of more than 50 docks owned and operated by an impressive group of companies in the Port District, such as ADM, ArcelorMittal, Cargill, DowDupont, Marathon, Shell, Nucor Steel, Occidental, Valero, and Occidental Chemical. The Port also owns and operates the Executive Regional Airport [KAPS]. To learn more, visit us at www.portsl.com, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

For information about this topic or about the Port of South Louisiana, contact:

Alexandra "Alex" Hernández, Public Information Officer, 985-652-9278 X7010, ahernandez@portsl.com

or

Micah Cormier, Director of Communications, 985-652-9278 X2114, mcormier@portsl.com