AN ACT

To enact R.S. 22:1483.1, relative to the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program; to provide for financial grants to retrofit residential property; to define certain terms; to provide for eligibility requirements; to provide for confidentiality of applicants; to provide for an effective date; to provide for termination of the program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 22:1483.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1483.1. Louisiana Fortify Homes Program

A. The Louisiana Fortify Homes Program is hereby created within the department. The commissioner, as program administrator, may make financial grants to retrofit roofs of insurable property, as defined in R.S. 22:1483(C)(9), with a homestead exemption to resist loss due to hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic windstorm events and to meet or exceed the "fortified roof" standard of the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. The commissioner shall promulgate rules governing eligibility requirements for grants and the administration of the program.

B. In order to receive a grant pursuant to this Section, the grantee shall do all of the following:

(1) Obtain all permits required by law or ordinance for construction.

(2) Arrange and pay for inspections required by law or ordinance and the terms of the grant, which shall include inspection pursuant to R.S. 22:1483(C)(3).

(3) Comply with applicable building codes.
(4) Maintain records as required by R.S. 22:1483(C)(4) and (5) and the terms of the grant.

C. The name of a recipient of a grant received pursuant to this Section, the amount of the grant, and the municipal address of the retrofitted insurable property shall be a public record.

D. There is hereby established in the state treasury as a special fund the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program Fund, hereafter referred to in this Section as the "fund". Monies appropriated or transferred to the fund shall be deposited by the state treasurer after compliance with the provisions of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and any interest earned on monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be used to provide grants pursuant to this Section.

E. This Section does not create any of the following:

(1) An entitlement for property owners to receive funding to inspect or retrofit residential property.

(2) An obligation for the state to appropriate funding to inspect or retrofit residential property.

F. The provisions of this Section shall terminate and have no effect beginning at twelve o'clock midnight on June 30, 2025.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective January 1, 2023.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ______________________

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.