

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 952

BY REPRESENTATIVE SELDERS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Creates a fund for the purpose of providing disaster relief

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 29:731.1, relative to emergency preparedness; to provide for the creation of  
3 a fund; to provide for distribution of monies from the fund; to provide for  
4 applicability; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 29:731.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §731.1. Legislative Disaster Assistance and Relief Fund

8 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury as a special fund the  
9 Legislative Disaster Assistance and Relief Fund, referred to in this Subsection as the  
10 "fund". After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the  
11 Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, the  
12 state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to deposit into the fund any amounts  
13 appropriated by the legislature. The monies in the fund shall be invested by the state  
14 treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and interest earned  
15 on the investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund following compliance  
16 with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) relative to the Bond Security and  
17 Redemption Fund. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end  
18 of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

19 B. The monies in the fund shall be distributed only after all of the following  
20 have occurred in the following order:

1           (1) A state of emergency has been declared pursuant to R.S. 29:724, 727, or  
2           766.

3           (2) A Louisiana resident or business has been adversely affected, either  
4           physically or financially, by a disaster or emergency as defined in R.S. 29:723.

5           (3) A Louisiana resident or business who has been affected pursuant to  
6           Paragraph (2) of this Subsection has contacted a member of either the House of  
7           Representatives or the Senate with a request for financial assistance.

8           (4) The House or Senate member who has received a request has  
9           communicated that request to the speaker of the House of Representatives or the  
10          president of the Senate.

11          (5) The speaker of the House of Representatives or the president of the  
12          Senate has approved the request and has requested the amount be disbursed from the  
13          fund to the resident or business making the request.

14          C. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a House or Senate member from  
15          initiating contact with a Louisiana resident or business for the purpose of inquiring  
16          if that resident or business needs financial assistance.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 952 Original

2022 Regular Session

Selders

**Abstract:** Creates the Legislative Disaster Assistance and Relief Fund and provides for disbursement from the fund.

Proposed law provides for the creation of the Legislative Disaster Assistance and Relief Fund. Provides that the monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and interest earned on the investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund following compliance with the requirements of present constitution.

Proposed law provides that all unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

Proposed law provides that the monies in the fund shall be distributed only after all of the following have occurred in the following order:

(1) A state of emergency has been declared pursuant to present law (R.S. 29:724, 727, or 766).

- (2) A La. resident or business has been adversely affected, either physically or financially, by a disaster or emergency as defined in present law (R.S. 29:723).
- (3) A La. resident or business who has been affected pursuant to proposed law has contacted a member of either the House of Representatives or the Senate with a request for financial assistance.
- (4) The House or Senate member who has received the request has communicated that request to the speaker of the House of Representatives or the president of the Senate.
- (5) The speaker of the House of Representatives or the president of the Senate has approved the request and has requested the amount be disbursed from the fund to the resident making the request.

Proposed law provides that nothing shall prohibit a House or Senate member from initiating contact with a La. resident or business for the purpose of inquiring if that resident or business needs financial assistance.

(Adds R.S. 29:731.1)