

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

HOUSING: Urges and requests the La. Housing Corporation to consider emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency characteristics when implementing design criteria for housing developments competing for funding in programs administered by the corporation and to explore sources of federal funds to retrofit existing buildings with these same design criteria

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request urge and request the Louisiana Housing Corporation to consider
3 emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency characteristics when implementing
4 design criteria for housing developments competing for funding in programs
5 administered by the corporation and to explore sources of federal funds that may be
6 available to retrofit existing buildings using these same emergency preparedness and
7 disaster resiliency design criteria.

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation administers the Low Income
9 Housing Tax Credit Program which is a federal tax incentive program aimed at increasing
10 the availability of low-income rental housing; and

11 WHEREAS, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program subsidizes a portion of
12 the costs for constructing new housing developments or developments that involve the
13 substantial rehabilitation of existing units occupied by low-income individuals and families;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, each qualified development includes minimum project requirements and
16 a minimum percentage of units that must be reserved for eligible low-income tenants which
17 include veterans, the elderly, and mobility impaired citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, over the last ten years, Louisiana has experienced numerous hurricanes
2 and storm events that have caused catastrophic loss of property including catastrophic losses
3 due to wind and flooding; and

4 WHEREAS, tenants of low- and moderate-income housing developments can be
5 particularly vulnerable during hurricanes and flooding events because they may lack the
6 ability to evacuate for extended periods of time or otherwise mitigate property damage and
7 losses; and

8 WHEREAS, because Louisiana is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and other
9 storm and flooding events, it is imperative that emergency preparedness and disaster
10 resiliency characteristics become integral components of the minimum design criteria for
11 new low- and moderate-income housing developments; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Louisiana Housing Corporation administered a Piggyback
13 Resilience Initiative - Mixed Income (PRIME) program which provided sixty-million dollars
14 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to multifamily housing
15 developments which primarily benefitted low- and moderate-income populations; and

16 WHEREAS, eligible sites for the PRIME program included mandatory disaster
17 resilience criteria, including fortified commercial roof standards, multi-hazard risk and
18 vulnerability assessments, surface storm water management, access to potable water during
19 emergencies, and resilient energy systems including flood proofing of lower floors and
20 islandable power including efficient and portable generators and backflow preventors; and

21 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation should consider disaster resilience
22 criteria such as those included in the PRIME program for all of the housing developments
23 competing for funding administered by the corporation in order to mitigate property losses
24 and the hardship that extended evacuations cause for the tenants who live in housing
25 developments; and

26 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation should also explore sources of
27 federal funds that may be available to retrofit existing buildings that a portion of
28 construction costs were financed through federal incentive programs administered by the
29 Louisiana Housing Corporation to include these same emergency preparedness and disaster
30 resiliency design criteria so as to mitigate losses for tenants of housing developments.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Housing Corporation
3 to consider emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency characteristics when
4 implementing design criteria for housing developments competing for funding in programs
5 administered by the corporation and to explore sources of federal funds that may be available
6 to retrofit existing buildings using these same emergency preparedness and disaster
7 resiliency design criteria.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation.

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)]

HR 103 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Duplessis

Urges and requests the La. Housing Corporation to consider emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency characteristics when implementing design criteria for housing developments competing for funding in programs administered by the corporation and to explore sources of federal funds that may be available to retrofit existing buildings using these same emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency design criteria.