

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 291

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

A RESOLUTION

To create and establish the Fire Protection and Construction Code Task Force to study the feasibility of a transition from the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety and National Fire Prevention Codes to the International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, and International Fire Code.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has declared that the protection of life and property is enhanced by the adoption of the Life Safety Code and the National Fire Prevention Code as they are published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 489 of the 2024 Regular Session seeks to replace the NFPA's Life Safety Code and the National Fire Prevention Code as the state's primary fire safety and construction codes by requiring that structures and movables comply with the International Code Council's International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, and International Fire Code, as adopted and implemented by the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council; and

WHEREAS, NFPA has been the foremost authority in fire prevention, community risk reduction, and public safety for more than one hundred twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, this state has relied on the NFPA Life Safety Code and National Fire Prevention Code for decades with great success.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge that further study of the proposed changes enumerated in Senate Bill No. 489 of the 2024 Regular Session is necessary to understand the ramifications of a transition away from the NFPA Life Safety Code and National Fire Prevention Code before any of those changes are implemented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Fire Protection and Construction Code Task Force to study the ramifications of the proposed changes in Senate Bill No. 489 of the 2024 Regular Session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following eleven members with equal representation, and the members shall elect a chairperson by majority vote at the task force's first meeting to be held before September 15, 2024:

- (1) The state fire marshal or his designee.
- (2) The president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (3) The president of the Louisiana Municipal Association or his designee
- (4) The president of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Louisiana State Firemen's Association or his designee.
- (6) The president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana or his designee.
- (7) One member appointed by the Parish Presidents of Louisiana Association.
- (8) One member appointed by the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council.
- (9) One member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (10) The chairman of the House Committee on Commerce or his designee.
- (11) The chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of the constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum of the task force and any official action by the task force shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall hold public hearings to receive testimony from any interested party and shall specifically solicit advice and guidance from professionals who utilize fire protection and building codes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force established pursuant to this Resolution shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature on or before February 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force established pursuant to this Resolution shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor, the state fire marshal, the president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana Municipal Association, the executive director of the Parish Presidents of Louisiana Association, the president of the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association, the president of the Louisiana State Firemen's Association, the president of the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, and the chief business officer of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES