

SENATE BILL NO. 441

BY SENATOR MORRELL

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 49:663.1, relative to the office of community development disaster recovery unit; to terminate current procedures for recovering certain disaster monies paid; to provide for adoption of new procedures by the office to recover disaster monies improperly paid to or misspent by recipients; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 49:663.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§663.1. Community Development Block Grant

A. The division of administration shall be responsible for and shall administer the Community Development Block Grant Program.

B. The office of community development disaster recovery unit shall terminate procedures in effect on the effective date of this Act under which disaster recovery monies paid as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including monies paid under the Road Home program, are to be recovered by the office if such monies are alleged to have been improperly paid to or misspent by the recipients.

C. The office of community development disaster recovery unit shall not initiate recovery of disaster monies paid as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including recovery of monies paid under the Road Home program, until procedures for recovery of these monies are adopted by the office in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

D. The office of community development disaster recovery unit shall recover funds improperly paid to or misspent by recipients through procedures developed in accordance with the following minimum requirements:

1 (1) The office shall provide documentation that any letter sent to a
2 recipient, seeking confirmation that disaster monies paid to that person were
3 used in accordance with the program rules for which they were received, was
4 received at the recipient's correct municipal address.

5 (2) The letter to a recipient shall clearly indicate the information needed
6 to verify that disaster monies were used by the recipient in accordance with
7 program rules.

8 (3) The recipient of the letter shall have a minimum of ninety days within
9 which to respond to the office by mail, return receipt requested, or in person.

10 (4) All issues concerning program compliance shall be resolved within
11 sixty days after the office receives the information requested.

12 E. The office of community development disaster recovery unit shall
13 develop the procedures as provided for in Subsection C of this Section by
14 October 1, 2014.

15 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____