### SLS 17RS-761

## ORIGINAL

## 2017 Regular Session

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

# BY SENATORS WHITE, ALLAIN, APPEL, CHABERT, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, HEWITT, LAMBERT, MIZELL, PERRY, TARVER, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

FEDERAL PROGRAMS. Requests that CDBG–Disaster Recovery Program funds received by Louisiana relative to damages caused by the flooding in the state during 2016 be subject to legislative oversight.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request that the federal funds received by Louisiana through the Community
3	Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program relative to damages caused
4	by the flooding in the state during 2016 be subject to the same legislative oversight
5	as the oversight required for the allocation and expenditure of federal funds received
6	by Louisiana through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery
7	Program relative to damages caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
8	WHEREAS, during the months of March and August 2016, the state of Louisiana
9	suffered two separate flooding events, each of which devastated large portions of the state;
10	and
11	WHEREAS, in March of last year the state was struck with a weather event
12	beginning Tuesday, March 8th, and continuing off and on through Saturday, March 12th,
13	bringing recorded rainfall amounts of twenty inches or more and resulting in extreme flash
14	flooding, the closing of numerous roadways, and the evacuation of homes and businesses
15	in many locations; and
16	WHEREAS, the official airport reporting station in Monroe had picked up in excess
17	of twenty inches of rain from March 8th through March 11th; and
18	WHEREAS, major flooding also swamped the Shreveport area, where up to eighteen

1 inches of rain fell; and

2 WHEREAS, flooding from the March event prompted evacuations in Greenwood, 3 Haughton, Homer, Minden, and Rayville, Louisiana, and resulted in record crests on Bayou 4 Dorcheat at Lake Bistineau, Bogue Chitto River near Bush, Bogue Falaya River in Covington, Little River of Louisiana near Rochelle, and Tchefuncte River near Folsom and 5 6 close-to-record crests on the Amite River at Bayou Manchac Point, Amite River at Port 7 Vincent, Bayou D'Arbonne at Lake D'Arbonne, Big Cypress Creek at Mooringsport, Bogue 8 Chitto River at Franklinton, Calcasieu River near Glenmora, Calcasieu River near Oberlin, 9 Pearl River near Pearl River, Red River at Shreveport, Sabine River at Logansport, 10 Tangipahoa River at Robert, Tchefuncte River near Covington, and Tickfaw River at 11 Liverpool, among others; and

WHEREAS, the August flood, which was described as the worst natural disaster in
the United States since Hurricane Sandy in 2012, damaged hundreds of thousands of homes
in the state and forced thousands of citizens into emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, the August event started with a slow-moving low pressure weather
system passing through the state producing unprecedented rainfall and leaving as much as
two feet of rain in a twenty-four hour period in portions of the parishes of East Baton Rouge,
Livingston, and St. Helena; and

WHEREAS, further rain that followed affected the parishes of Tangipahoa, East
Feliciana, Washington, Ascension, Lafayette, Iberville, and St. Martin; and

- WHEREAS, many affected by the rising waters in the August event had to be
  rescued by boat or helicopter, resulting in the formation of the famed "Cajun Navy"; and
- WHEREAS, the education of thousands of school children in the areas affected bythe flooding was adversely impacted; and
- WHEREAS, the task of restoring and rebuilding in the affected areas is massive and
   complex; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the state to obtain funding from the federal
government to assist in the rebuilding process, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development's disaster recovery funding, the Community Development Block
Grant–Disaster Recovery Program, has thus far provided only a fraction of the funding

needed by citizens for restoration and rebuilding of their homes, businesses, and lives; and 1 2 WHEREAS, it is an essential function of the legislature to monitor the use of these 3 funds as they are spent to rebuild and restore the state, as was done in the years following 4 hurricanes Katrina and Rita. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana take the 5 6 necessary steps to ensure that federal funds received by Louisiana through the Community 7 Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program relative to damages caused by 8 flooding in the state during 2016 be subject to the same legislative oversight as the oversight 9 required for the allocation and expenditure of federal funds received by Louisiana through 10 the Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery Program relative to damages 11 caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to 13 Governor John Bel Edwards and to the executive director of the Louisiana Office of 14 Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas F. Wade.

SCR 83 Original

DIGEST 2017 Regular Session

White

Requests that the legislature take the necessary steps to ensure that federal funds received by Louisiana through the Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery Program relative to damages caused by the flooding in the state during 2016 be subject to the same legislative oversight as the oversight required for the allocation and expenditure of federal funds received by Louisiana through the Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery Program relative to damages caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.