

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 93

BY SENATOR MORRISH AND REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to form a subcommittee to coordinate the state's involvement in the National Flood Insurance Program.

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created in 1968 in response to Hurricane Betsy to address the nation's financial exposure as a result of flooding and rebuilding after natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, NFIP was created within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to address the policy objectives of identifying flood risk, offering affordable insurance premiums to encourage program participation, and promoting community-based floodplain management; and

WHEREAS, NFIP helps communities at risk of flooding better prepare by requiring stronger floodplain management standards and incentivizing mitigation to discourage risky business in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the five hundred thousand active NFIP policies in Louisiana were valued at \$132 billion in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's total loss payments from NFIP were \$19.57 billion in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to face increased flood risk from intensified weather events and subsequent flooding, producing more expensive flood damages, and higher flood insurance costs within an already vulnerable coast; and

WHEREAS, impacts of coastal land loss and increasing storm vulnerability are not just to the physical landscape, but to the economic and financial landscapes as well; and

WHEREAS, changes to the coastal environment can be slow, insurance and financial decisions can change rapidly and have immediate impacts on coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana must take greater initiative to prepare coastal communities for flooding events and reduce the financial burden of flood disasters on coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the economic implications of flooding require coordination at the local, state, and federal levels as well as across multiple state agencies; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana requires that all parishes and municipalities participate in and comply with all applicable provisions of federal floodplain management and flood insurance programs; and

WHEREAS, flood risks and potential changes to flood insurance will create changes throughout Louisiana, but the coastal area will be particularly impacted; and

WHEREAS, coalitions of business groups and affected industries, and coalitions supported by Louisiana levee districts have been active in this issue; and

WHEREAS, the issue of flood insurance and the NFIP is too important for the state to remain on the sidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (Board) is tasked to represent the state's position in policy relative to protection, conservation, enhancement, and restoration of the coastal area of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Board is composed of multiple agencies and stakeholder groups uniquely qualified to assess the potential impacts of changes to the NFIP to the state and authorized to create a subcommittee when the necessary instance arises.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board to form a subcommittee to analyze and assess the National Flood Insurance Program and potential changes to that program as well as the implications of those changes for the insurability of coastal communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee of the Board shall include but not be limited to representatives from the Division of Administration, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Insurance, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this flood insurance subcommittee should:

A. Rely on the latest and most scientifically-reliable available data and technology related to flood risk in coastal Louisiana.

B. Collaborate with FEMA in regard to recently proposed changes of the NFIP as well as with local actors and entities immersed in the work of coastal community flood insurance on behalf of the state of Louisiana.

C. Discuss and evaluate proposed reforms to the NFIP and make recommendations for consideration in updates to the NFIP relevant to flood risk and insurance programs within the purview of Louisiana's vulnerable coast.

D. Engage with the flood insurance industry to further explore the evaluation and communication of risk in the coastal area, the risk reduction attributes of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, and opportunities to work together to reduce risk and the financial burdens of flooding and recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the Board shall chair the National Flood Insurance Subcommittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chair of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for distribution to the Board.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES