

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

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 office and to explore sources of federal funds to retrofit existing buildings with these same design criteria

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2    To urge and request the Louisiana Housing Corporation to consider emergency preparedness

3        and disaster resiliency characteristics when implementing design criteria for housing

4        developments competing for funding in programs administered by the corporation

5        and to explore sources of federal funds that may be available to retrofit existing

6        buildings using these same emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency design

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

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

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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)]

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HCR 97 Original

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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.