

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana 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.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation administers the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program which is a federal tax incentive program aimed at increasing the availability of low-income rental housing; and

WHEREAS, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program subsidizes a portion of the costs for constructing new housing developments or developments that involve the substantial rehabilitation of existing units occupied by low-income individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, each qualified development includes minimum project requirements and a minimum percentage of units that must be reserved for eligible low-income tenants which include veterans, the elderly, and mobility impaired citizens; and

WHEREAS, over the last ten years, Louisiana has experienced numerous hurricanes and storm events that have caused catastrophic loss of property including catastrophic losses due to wind and flooding; and

WHEREAS, tenants of low- and moderate-income housing developments can be particularly vulnerable during hurricanes and flooding events because they may lack the ability to evacuate for extended periods of time or otherwise mitigate property damage and losses; and

WHEREAS, because Louisiana is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and other storm and flooding events, it is imperative that emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency characteristics become integral components of the minimum design criteria for new low- and moderate-income housing developments; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Louisiana Housing Corporation administered a Piggyback Resilience Initiative - Mixed Income (PRIME) program which provided sixty-million dollars in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to multifamily housing developments which primarily benefitted low- and moderate-income populations; and

WHEREAS, eligible sites for the PRIME program included mandatory disaster resilience criteria, including fortified commercial roof standards, multi-hazard risk and vulnerability assessments, surface storm water management, access to potable water during emergencies, and resilient energy systems including flood proofing of lower floors and islandable power including efficient and portable generators and backflow preventors; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation should consider disaster resilience criteria such as those included in the PRIME program for all of the housing developments competing for funding administered by the corporation in order to mitigate property losses and the hardship that extended evacuations cause for the tenants who live in housing developments; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation should also explore sources of federal funds that may be available to retrofit existing buildings that a portion of construction costs were financed through federal incentive programs administered by the Louisiana Housing Corporation to include these same emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency design criteria so as to mitigate losses for tenants of housing developments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana 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.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES