

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 212

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To express support for the Board of Regents' effort, in conjunction with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College, to develop the Community College Resilience Center pilot project at Fletcher's campuses to better serve local communities in the aftermath of disasters and develop more resilient campus locations for the future.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane on August 29, 2021, and caused catastrophic damage to the Southeastern quadrant of our state; in the aftermath, many citizens were without power, internet, and other basic necessities for extended periods; and

WHEREAS, in response to hurricane impacts, several local businesses opened to assist their communities with access to groceries, hot meals, internet, and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, in the months following Hurricane Ida, impacted citizens, communities, and businesses have been slow to recover from the storm's effects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for leaders at all levels to recognize college campuses as community anchors that can improve a community's resilience and expedite recovery after both manmade and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for state and local emergency preparedness stakeholders to convene around the opportunity to integrate colleges, their infrastructure and assets, and their human capital into preparedness and recovery plans; and

WHEREAS, it is important to incorporate resilient building practices into college campus master plans, retrofitting existing campus infrastructure for greater resilience and allocating funding to maintain and develop campus resilience in the future; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to designate recovery liaisons for postsecondary education within the state's emergency preparedness and postsecondary education agencies

to convene all necessary partners and resources to pilot and expand this effort across Louisiana's college campuses; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for postsecondary education entities to seek continued guidance from state and local emergency personnel regarding ways to continually improve their involvement in disaster recovery across the state; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that campus recovery is linked to strong community recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express support for the development of the Community College Resilience Center pilot project at L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College in order to map the processes, partnerships, resources, barriers, and opportunities involved in fully integrating postsecondary education institutions into community disaster recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives will work with the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College to fully develop and test the Resilience Center pilot and plan for future expansion to additional institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby urge and request that the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness work with the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College to develop and implement the Resilience Center pilot and assist in identifying relevant stakeholders for participation in the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the chancellor of L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES