HLS 23RS-1234 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

TRANSPORTATION DEPT: Urges and requests the Department of Transportation and Development to work with other agencies and interest groups to take appropriate action to remove and prevent homeless people from residing within interstate rights of way

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to work with other
3	agencies and interest groups to take appropriate action to remove and prevent
4	homeless people from residing within interstate rights of way.
5	WHEREAS, there are currently multiple homeless encampments under the Interstate
6	10 overpasses in the New Orleans area; and
7	WHEREAS, there is a widespread shortage of affordable housing options; and
8	WHEREAS, the associated crime, including loitering, trespassing, and panhandling
9	in the vicinity of the encampments is a matter of public concern; and
10	WHEREAS, public resources are expended cleaning up the increased trash
11	accumulating in the areas of the encampments; and
12	WHEREAS, living conditions in the encampments present health concerns such as
13	the spread of Covid and hepatitis, as well as the spread of fleas and lice; and
14	WHEREAS, unaddressed chronic mental health issues contribute to the number of
15	people in the encampment; and
16	WHEREAS, other health concerns for those in the encampment are created by
17	crowded living conditions, lack of proper hygiene, and lack of access to proper waste
18	disposal options; and
19	WHEREAS, the risk of death associated with the encampment is elevated; and

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1	WHEREAS, the encampments create fire hazards due to unsafe fires used for
2	cooking and heating; and
3	WHEREAS, there are chronic public intoxication issues associated with the
4	encampments; and
5	WHEREAS, the unseemly area of the encampments have a negative impact on
6	tourism and on businesses in the area; and
7	WHEREAS, these encampments occupy public parking spaces and interfere with
8	commerce in the area; and
9	WHEREAS, these encampments present a myriad of other real concerns to public
10	safety.
11	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12	urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development work with other
13	agencies and interest groups to remove and prevent homeless people from residing within
14	interstate rights of way.
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation shall consult
16	with, and receive advice from, the following entities:
17	(1) The New Orleans Police Department.
18	(2) The Department of Public Health.
19	(3) Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care.
20	(4) The Department of Environmental Quality.
21	(5) The Louisiana State Police.
22	(6) The Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care.
23	(7) The Department of Veterans Affairs' Homeless Program.
24	(8) The New Orleans Office of Homeless Services and Strategy.
25	(9) The Housing Authority of New Orleans.
26	(10) UNITY of Greater New Orleans.
27	(11) The Covenant House New Orleans.
28	(12) Travelers Aid Society of Greater New Orleans.
29	(13) New Orleans & Company.

(14) The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

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- 1 (15) The Historic Faubourg Tremé Association.
- 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
- 3 Development shall take necessary action to resolve the humanitarian concerns caused by the
- 4 encampments.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall consider alternative
- 6 housing for those displaced people living in encampments.
- 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
- 8 Development shall provide a written report of its progress to the president of the Louisiana
- 9 Senate and the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives no later than March 1,
- 10 2024.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

## **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)]

HCR 73 Original

2023 Regular Session

Knox

Urges and requests that the Dept. of Transportation and Development address the issue of encampments under I-10 overpasses in the New Orleans area by working with other agencies and interest groups to find housing for the displaced residents of the encampments. Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to provide a written report of its progress to the Senate and the House of Representatives by March 1, 2024.