

2023 Regular Session

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

1                                    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

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 discuss potential solutions and address the public safety  
14 concerns regarding homeless people residing within 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.
- 30           (14) The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

1 (15) The Historic Faubourg Tremé Association.

2 (16) The Port of New Orleans.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and  
4 Development shall provide a written report of its progress to the president of the Louisiana  
5 Senate and the speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives no later than March 1,  
6 2024.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
8 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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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 73 Engrossed

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 discuss potential solutions and address the public safety concerns regarding homeless people residing within the interstate rights of way. 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Remove the request that the Dept. of Transportation and Development and other agencies and interest groups remove and prevent homeless people from residing within interstate rights of way and add that they discuss potential solutions and address the public safety concerns regarding homeless people residing within the interstate rights of way.
2. Add the Port of New Orleans to the entities the Dept. of Transportation and Development must consult with relative to preventing the impact of homelessness on interstate rights of way.
3. Remove the request that the Dept. of Transportation and Development take necessary action to resolve the humanitarian concerns caused by the encampments.
4. Remove the request that the department consider alternative housing for those displaced people living in encampments.