

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATORS BROWN AND GARY SMITH

FUNDS/FUNDING. Directs the allocation of federal funds received due to Hurricane Isaac to parishes based on the amount of damage sustained within the parish.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the allocation of federal funds received by the state as the result of damage sustained from Hurricane Isaac so that the monies are apportioned among the various parishes in which damage was sustained based upon the amount of damage within each parish compared to the total amount of damage to the state.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana, particularly in the southeastern portion of the state, mindful of the devastation and destruction wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the state at the end of August 2005, spent the end of August 2012 preparing for Hurricane Isaac while watching the weather reports and forecasts on the progress of the hurricane as it approached landfall; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Isaac made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane on August 28, 2012, and stalled over the warm marsh for three days causing flooding in many areas in Louisiana that do not normally flood, with the pounding winds and relentless rain of that weather system; and

WHEREAS, within hours of landfall, nine hundred and three thousand utility customers in Louisiana were without power, and within days after the storm making landfall, relief agencies were estimating at least thirteen thousand homes were damaged as a result of Hurricane Isaac, with thousands of residents being driven from their homes, making

1 efforts to protect property from further damage difficult if not impossible; and

2 WHEREAS, on March 27, 2013, Secretary Shaun Donovan of the United States
3 Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the allocation of nearly one
4 hundred seven million dollars to the state of Louisiana to help local communities to recover
5 from the losses sustained as a result of Hurricane Isaac, of which sixteen million four
6 hundred fifty-three thousand dollars is allocated to Jefferson Parish, fifteen million thirty-
7 one thousand dollars is allocated to Orleans Parish, eight million eight hundred ninety-six
8 thousand dollars is allocated to St. Tammany Parish, and sixty-six million, three hundred
9 ninety-eight thousand dollars is allocated to the state; and

10 WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the allocation and distribution of that
11 portion of the grant allocated to the state in such a way that the parishes with the greater total
12 dollar amount of damages receive the greater portion of the funds available, using data from
13 the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine the total dollar amount of
14 damages, giving special consideration to the parishes of St. James, St. John the Baptist, and
15 Plaquemines due to the severe amount of damage to those areas of the state and evacuations
16 of those areas caused by the hurricane; and

17 WHEREAS, the portion of the grant allocated to the state should be distributed so
18 as to allocate and distribute the funds among the parishes of the state in the proportion that
19 the total dollar value of damage to each individual parish bears to the total dollar value of
20 damage to the state resulting from Hurricane Isaac, excluding the parishes of Jefferson,
21 Orleans, and St. Tammany.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
23 direct that the monies received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban
24 Development, by reason of the damage sustained by the state from Hurricane Isaac, from the
25 Community Development Block Grant Program to support long-term disaster recovery
26 efforts received by the state of Louisiana, as grantee, in the amount of sixty-six million, three
27 hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars be allocated to and distributed among the parishes of
28 the state in the proportion that the total dollar value of damage to each individual parish
29 bears to the total dollar value of damage to the state resulting from Hurricane Isaac,
30 excluding the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany, using data from the Federal

1 Emergency Management Agency to determine the total dollar amount of damages, and
2 giving special consideration to the parishes of St. James, St. John the Baptist, and
3 Plaquemines due to the severe amount of damage to those areas of the state and evacuations
4 of those areas caused by the hurricane.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for purposes of this Resolution, the terms
6 "parish" or "parishes" mean any parish which is in whole or in part in the area with respect
7 to which a disaster has been declared by the President of the United States under Section 401
8 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by reason of
9 Hurricane Isaac.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 commissioner of administration.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas F. Wade.

DIGEST

Brown

SCR No. 35

Directs the allocation of federal funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program received due to Hurricane Isaac be apportioned among the various parishes in which damage was sustained as a result of the storm based on the amount of damage sustained within each parish compared to the total amount of damage to the state, using data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine the total dollar amount of damages, and giving special consideration to the parishes of St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Plaquemines due to the severe amount of damage to those areas of the state and evacuations of those areas caused by the hurricane.