

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROSSETT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to release funds to assist the homeowners who were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, causing great devastation in the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans and the displacement of most homeowners in that area; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Community Development, Disaster Recover Unit (OCD-DRU), is the state agency responsible for the administration of federal disaster recovery funds allocated to Louisiana after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

WHEREAS, OCD-DRU and the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) were tasked with developing programs to administer funds, including The Road Home Program (RHP), which is designed to provide compensation to Louisiana homeowners whose homes were damaged by the hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, there have been approximately 90,000 homeowners who selected the RHP rebuilding option and signed covenants that they would rebuild and reoccupy their homes within three years; and

WHEREAS, reviews have found that approximately one-third of these may not have complied with the covenants; and

WHEREAS, state and local auditors are calling on OCD to more aggressively recover unused or misspent grant dollars; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, it was announced by the secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that HUD was releasing additional dollars to assist in bringing homeowners into compliance with their covenants and to help homeowners finish rebuilding and restoring their homes; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's plans to spend the final dollars in the RHP have been delayed in the HUD approval process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the additional dollars be released by HUD and OCD to assist in bringing homeowners into compliance with their covenants and to help homeowners finish their Katrina rebuilding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of HUD, the commissioner of administration, and the Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE