

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL NO. 167

BY SENATOR GRAY EVANS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HOUSING. Requires not less than five million dollars of recovery funding to be allocated for emergency rental assistance if approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (See Act)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 49:220.5(A)(2) and to enact R.S. 49:220.8, relative to the
3 Louisiana Recovery Authority; to provide relative to housing for victims of disasters;
4 to require funding for emergency rental assistance; to provide for priorities; to
5 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 49:220.5(A)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 49:220.8
8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §220.5. Louisiana Recovery Authority; powers; duties; functions

10 A. The authority shall have the following powers, duties, and functions:

11 * * *

12 (2)(a) To propose, implement, and promote the implementation of special
13 programs dedicated to the recovery which may be funded by state or federal funds
14 or other monies, including but not limited to The Road Home Program, the Public
15 Assistance Program, the Hazard Mitigation Program, **an Emergency Rental**
16 **Assistance Program**, and the Alternative Housing Pilot Program. Implementation
17 of programs shall be at the direction of the governor.

1 **Social Services and other relevant state agencies for the implementation of**
2 **emergency rental assistance programs.**

3 Section 2. Within thirty days of the effective date of this Act, the Louisiana
4 Recovery Authority is hereby authorized and directed to prepare as necessary an Action Plan
5 Amendment for implementing Section 1 of this Act, which Action Plan Amendment shall
6 be submitted for the review and approval of the governor, the Joint Legislative Committee
7 on the Budget, and the legislature, as appropriate, all in accordance with the provision of
8 P.L. 109-148, P.L. 109-234, P.L. 110-116, or P.L. 110-329 and in accordance with the
9 provisions of R.S. 49:220.5, which Action Plan Amendment shall be submitted to the U.S.
10 Department of Housing and Urban Development for its review and approval.

11 Section 3. Section 1 of this Act shall become effective only if and when such Action
12 Plan Amendment for implementing R.S. 49:220.5(A)(2) as provided in Section 1 of this Act
13 is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Louisiana
14 Recovery Authority shall provide written notification of such approval to the Louisiana Law
15 Institute.

16 Section 4. Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act shall become effective upon signature by
17 the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to
18 become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the
19 Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the
20 legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

Gray Evans (SB 167)

Present law provides that the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA), as part of its power, duty and function, shall propose, implement and promote the implementation of special programs dedicated to the recovery which may be funded by state or federal or other monies, including but not limited to The Road Home Program, the Public Assistance Program, the Hazard Mitigation Program, and the Alternative Housing Pilot Program. Provides that implementation of the programs shall be at the direction of the governor.

Proposed law retains present law and adds an Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Provides that not less than \$5M of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster funding, Social Service Block Grant funding, or other available federal and state resources shall be allocated for emergency rental assistance. Provides that an "Emergency Rental

Assistance Program" is a program that provides rental assistance to families expiring out of FEMA's temporary housing program or HUD's Disaster Housing Program and whose income is less than 80% of the area median income and who are not receiving permanent housing vouchers or other permanent affordable housing assistance.

Proposed law provides that a priority of households for funding as follows:

- (1) Households that participated in Hurricanes Katrina or Rita temporary housing assistance programs such as HUD's Disaster Housing Program or FEMA's temporary housing program and continue to be in need and do not qualify for housing choice voucher program assistance or other programs established to address the housing needs of transitioning households.
- (2) Households participating in Hurricanes Gustav or Ike temporary housing assistance programs.
- (3) Households in need who either did not qualify or did not participate in temporary housing assistance programs of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, or Ike.

Proposed law requires LRA or any other agency of the state designated to coordinate disaster recovery programs to partner with the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) and other relevant state agencies for the implementation of emergency rental assistance programs.

Requires the LRA to prepare an Action Plan Amendment for implementing proposed law as appropriate within 30 days of enactment. Provides that proposed law will become effective when the Action Plan Amendment is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(Amends R.S. 49:220.5(A)(2); adds R.S. 49:220.8)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill.

1. Removes requirement that allocation be for Fiscal Year 2010.
2. Adds funding streams in addition to CDBG to be considered.
3. Adds to program criteria families who are not receiving permanent affordable housing assistance other than vouchers.
4. Adds priority households for funding.
5. Adds requirement for LRA to partner with DSS and other relevant state agencies on implementation of programs.