

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Recovery Authority to provide new action plans to spend Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds allowing nonprofit organizations to perform cost, construction and case management and emergency rental assistance and to use unallocated Disaster Community Development Block Grant or other identified funds to fill discrepancies for Louisiana recipients receiving housing grants.

WHEREAS, while the housing recovery progress can be witnessed across hurricane disaster zones, rebuilding dependent upon public recovery resources continues to be thwarted by program bottlenecks; and

WHEREAS, insufficient resources to address lingering homeowner needs and repair costs have become apparent; and

WHEREAS, construction, insurance and utility costs continue to rise, making recovery and long-term housing sustainability extremely difficult for income restrained households; and

WHEREAS, the problems created by the Road Home Program grant discrepancies and the delays surrounding the small rental programs have especially impacted the neighborhoods and parishes with the highest flooding potential and lower pre-storm values; and

WHEREAS, to expedite housing recovery, the Louisiana Recovery Authority should develop new and continual action plans to allocate Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds and to aggressively identify other funding for nonprofit organizations to provide cost evaluation, construction, case management and other needed services; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventeen thousand Louisiana households depend on temporary housing assistance programs and another four thousand six hundred are in full-size trailers, park model campers or manufactured homes, or continue to receive Federal

Emergency Management Agency housing assistance; and

WHEREAS, temporary housing assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is anticipated to expire August 2009, and other affordable units are not expected to be available by this deadline, leaving many citizens without options; and

WHEREAS, an estimated three-fifths of grant recipients in the rebuilding phase of recovery have found discrepancies in program formulas based on assessed values rather than damage estimates; and

WHEREAS, unallocated Disaster Community Development Block Grant, Road Home Program and other identified funds should be made available to homeowners to close the gaps between damage estimates and compensation awards; and

WHEREAS, determined and verified compensation should be used to cover costs resulting from administrative errors, problematic appeals or gaps due to damage estimates that are determined to be higher than pre-storm home values; and

WHEREAS, Louisianians have spent three and half years waiting to rebuild their lives and homes and for many, the situation remains a critical matter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Recovery Authority to provide new action plans to spend Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds allowing nonprofit organizations to perform cost, construction and case management and emergency rental housing assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Recovery Authority should use unallocated Disaster Community Development Block Grant, Road Home Program or other identified funds to fill verified discrepancies for Louisiana recipients receiving housing grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

A. The Louisiana Recovery Authority shall report quarterly to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the Joint Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs Committee of the legislature on the progress of all program expenditures under the Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery program including Louisiana Bridge Loan, Louisiana Tourism Marketing, Recovery Workforce Training, Research Commercialization/ Educational Enhancement, Small Firm Recovery Loan and Grant, Technical Assistance to

Small Firms, Building Code Enforcement, First Time Homebuyer Pilot Program, Homelessness Supports, Homeowners Assistance, Housing Development Loan Fund, Land Assembly Operations, LIHTC/CDBF Piggyback, Small Rental Property, Supportive Housing Services, Support to Community Based Programs, Fisheries Assistance, Infrastructure Program Delivery, Local Government Long Term Community Recovery, Primary and Secondary Education, Ratepayer Mitigation, Environmental Clearance, and Planning Capacity.

B. The Louisiana Recovery Authority shall provide an analysis of potentially unused funds within programs to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the Joint Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs Committee of the legislature by September 30, 2009, and through its federal and state required processes, develop action plan amendments for public comment to redirect funds to unmet needs within the parishes that suffered damage to more than sixty percent of the housing following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Plans for allocations or action plan amendments shall be made by December 31, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Recovery Authority post on the Louisiana Recovery Authority/Office of Community Development websites, unedited, all quarterly legislative reports, plans for allocations, and analyses of potentially unused funds, and distribute said reports to housing advocates and stakeholders through the Housing Working Group established below.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a working group be assembled to develop proactive strategies for housing ALL Louisiana citizens, both those who may be impacted by future natural disasters as well as those who may not.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consists of, at a minimum, representatives from lead state agencies in the area of housing including the Louisiana Recovery Authority/Office of Community Development, the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, and the Department of Social Services, and representatives from the non-profit community including but not limited to the Louisiana Housing Alliance, the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, Policy Links, and the Louisiana Advocacy Coalition for the Homeless.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES