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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Riley Boudreaux.

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## DIGEST

Present law statutorily recognizes the requirement in Const. Art. VII, Sec. 20(A)(10) which authorizes homesteads whose owners are unable to occupy them on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of a calendar year due to damage or destruction during a disaster or emergency declared by the governor to retain the exemption by filing an annual affidavit of intent to return and reoccupy the homestead within five years from December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following the disaster with the assessor within the parish or district where the homestead is situated.

Present law statutorily recognizes the requirement in Const. Art. VII, Sec. 18(G)(5) which authorizes owners entitled to the "special assessment level" who are unable to occupy their homesteads on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of a "future" calendar year due to damage or destruction of the homestead caused by a disaster or emergency declared by the governor to retain the "special assessment level" of the homestead prior to its damage or destruction on the repaired or rebuilt homestead provided the repaired or rebuilt homestead is reoccupied by the owner within five years from December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following the disaster.

Proposed law is a companion bill to extend both 5-year periods to ten-year periods if, as and when the constitutional amendment contained in SB No. \_\_\_\_\_ is adopted by the electorate.

Effective if, as, and when the proposed amendment of Const. Art. VII, Secs. 18(G)(5) and 20(A)(10) contained in Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ is adopted at the statewide election to be held on Nov. 2, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 47:1703(E))