

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 1001 by Representative Wesley Bishop

PROPERTY/ABANDONED: Authorizes the city of New Orleans to sell blighted property in the Lower Ninth Ward for a fixed price

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds the following as persons qualified to purchase property pursuant to proposed law: persons who have leased property in the Lower Ninth Ward for at least 18 months, veterans, emergency responders, teachers, and former residents of the Lower Ninth Ward.
2. Provides for ranking groups of purchasers and the order in which they will have an opportunity to purchase property.
3. Adds any person with an active code enforcement violation or outstanding tax lien to persons who are prohibited from purchasing property pursuant to proposed law.
4. Adds the following as required elements of the rules and regulations of the program: (1) provision for the reversion of property to the city if the purchaser fails to meet his obligations and (2) appropriate time periods during which property is available for purchase to the various groups in the order established by proposed law.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law requires the city of New Orleans to sell, for \$100 per parcel, vacant lots that are located in the Lower Ninth Ward, were acquired through the La. Road Home program, and are either owned by the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority or the authority has been tasked with management and disposition of the property.

Provides that such sales shall only be to a purchaser who meets one of the following criteria and that property shall be made available to these groups in the order they are listed:

- (1) He is qualified under the Lot Next Door program, which authorizes the sale of property to adjacent property owners and who agrees to retain and maintain the property for five years.
- (2) He leases residential property in the Lower Ninth Ward and has resided at that property for at least 18 months and he agrees to retain and maintain the property for not less than five years.
- (3) He is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces, employed as an emergency responder, a teacher or a former teacher, or a former resident of the Lower Ninth Ward.
- (4) He agrees to build a residence on the property and to reside at that residence for five years.

Prohibits sale to a developer, a corporate entity, or a person with an active code enforcement violation or outstanding tax lien.

Requires the governing authority of the city of New Orleans, in consultation with the state representative from district 99 and the state senator from district two, to establish necessary rules and regulations. Provides that such rules and regulations shall specifically include:

(1) provision for the reversion of property to the city if the purchaser fails to meet his obligations and (2) appropriate time periods during which property is available for purchase to the various groups in the order established by proposed law.

Proposed law is only effective upon the passage and enactment of HB. No. 489 of the 2014 R.S. and ceases to be effective in 10 years.

(Adds R.S. 33:4720.11)