

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1055

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

FIRE PROTECT/FIRE MARSHAL: Establishes the Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue Program within the office of state fire marshal

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart E of Part III of Chapter 7 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
3 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 40:1664.21 and 1664.22, relative to the Louisiana  
4 Urban Search and Rescue Program, to provide for the administration of the program;  
5 to provide for a director and other personnel; to provide for policies and procedures  
6 related to the program; to provide for rulemaking authority; to create the Louisiana  
7 Urban Search and Rescue Program fund within the state treasury; to provide for the  
8 source of monies in the fund; to provide for treatment of monies in the fund; and to  
9 provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. Subpart E of Part III of Chapter 7 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised  
12 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 40:1664.21 and 1664.22, is hereby enacted to read as  
13 follows:

14 SUBPART E. LOUISIANA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM

15 §1664.21. Urban search and rescue program

16 A. The Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue Program, referred to in this  
17 Subpart as the "program", is hereby established and shall be administered by the  
18 office of state fire marshal within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

19 B. The program shall exercise the functions of the state regarding the  
20 development, coordination, response, and provision of resources to locate and

1 extricate victims entrapped by man-made or natural disasters, as well as conducting  
2 other operations within the boundaries of this state or in coordinated response with  
3 other states or with the federal government. The program shall function in addition  
4 to other disaster and emergency response efforts and shall not supplant those efforts.

5 C.(1) The state fire marshal shall select a director of the program to  
6 administer and oversee the program.

7 (2) The state fire marshal shall employ a person, who shall report directly to  
8 the director, to assist the director with the administrative requirements associated  
9 with the establishment and maintenance of the program.

10 (3) The director may employ other personnel as needed to conduct the  
11 operations of the program, including personnel overseeing urban search and rescue  
12 operations, planning, and logistics. The office of state fire marshal shall provide  
13 technical, clerical, and administrative assistance for the program and any necessary  
14 office space and facilities, including training facilities and warehouses for equipment  
15 and personnel, and any other services and support necessary for the program to  
16 perform its functions.

17 D.(1) The office of state fire marshal shall develop policies and procedures  
18 for the program, including but not limited to all of the following aspects of the  
19 program:

20 (a) Organizational and decision-making processes to establish lines of  
21 authority and control, goals, and objectives required to accomplish the missions of  
22 the program response teams.

23 (b) Membership of the response teams.

24 (c) Staffing for administration of the program and for the response teams.

25 (d) Participation and qualification requirements of response team members,  
26 including but not limited to training, meeting times, skills and abilities, removals,  
27 and resignations.

28 (e) Uniforms and equipment.

29 (f) Discipline and professional conduct of response teams.

1           (g) Operations related to response teams, including but not limited to  
2           mobilization, deployment, and bases of operation.

3           (h) Any other issues concerning the operation of the program.

4           (2) The office of state fire marshal shall promulgate administrative rules and  
5           regulations for the program, including but not limited to all of the following:

6           (a) Procedures for the reimbursement of agencies participating in the  
7           program for expenses related to response team deployment.

8           (b) Any other issues concerning the operation of the program.

9           §1664.22. Urban search and rescue program fund

10           A. The Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue Program fund, referred to in this  
11           Subpart as the "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury.

12           B. The source of monies deposited into the fund shall be legislative  
13           appropriation. Monies in the fund shall be subject to appropriation by the legislature  
14           and shall be available exclusively for the administration of the Louisiana Urban  
15           Search and Rescue Program.

16           C. All unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the  
17           fiscal year shall remain in the fund. These monies shall be invested by the state  
18           treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund, and interest earned  
19           on the investment of these monies shall be credited to the fund after compliance with  
20           the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana,  
21           relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1055 Original

2026 Regular Session

Zeringue

**Abstract:** Establishes the La. Urban Search and Rescue Program within the office of state fire marshal.

Proposed law creates the La. Urban Search and Rescue Program in the office of state fire marshal within the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, which shall exercise the functions of the state for the development, coordination, response, and provision of resources to locate and extricate victims entrapped by man-made or natural disasters.

Proposed law provides for the selection and employment of a director of the program, an assistant to the director, and other personnel who may be needed to implement the program.

Proposed law directs the office of state fire marshal to develop policies and procedures related to the staffing, organization, and logistics of the program.

Proposed law directs the office of state fire marshal to promulgate rules and regulations for reimbursement of agencies participating in the program for expenses related to response team deployment and any other issues concerning the program's operation.

Proposed law creates the La. Urban Search and Rescue Program Fund within the state treasury, and provides that the source of monies deposited into the fund shall be legislative appropriation.

Proposed law provides for the treatment of unexpended or unencumbered monies in the fund and interest earned on investment of fund monies.

(Adds R.S. 40:1664.21 and 1664.22)