

1 WHEREAS, the risk profile of low-hazard residential connections, which typically
2 serve only potable water uses within single-family and small multi-family dwellings, is
3 materially different from and substantially lower than the risk profile of commercial,
4 industrial, and institutional connections, which may involve chemical processes, medical
5 equipment, fire suppression systems, and other high-hazard cross-connection scenarios; and

6 WHEREAS, other states have implemented a reduced testing frequency for
7 residential backflow prevention assemblies, including the state of Wisconsin, which requires
8 testing of low-hazard residential service connections once every ten years pursuant to
9 Wisconsin Administrative Code §NR 810.15, and the state of Florida, which requires testing
10 of residential service connections after installation or repair and every two years thereafter
11 pursuant to Florida Administrative Code Rule 62-555.360; and

12 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, pursuant to
13 the authority granted in R.S. 40:1730.22, is responsible for adopting, amending, and
14 promulgating the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code, including the plumbing
15 provisions based upon the International Plumbing Code with amendments; and

16 WHEREAS, the current International Plumbing Code, as amended and adopted by
17 this state, requires annual inspections of all backflow prevention assemblies, barometric
18 loops, air gaps, and at least annual testing of certain specified backflow preventer assemblies
19 pursuant to Section 312.10 of that code; and

20 WHEREAS, alternative testing schedules, such as inspections and testing every two,
21 five, or ten years, or upon the sale or transfer of the property, could maintain adequate
22 protection of the public water system while substantially reducing compliance costs and
23 administrative burdens for the people of this state.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
25 urge and request the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to study the
26 feasibility, safety, and public health impacts of amending the International Plumbing Code
27 as adopted to reduce the required frequency of backflow prevention assembly, barometric
28 loops, air gap inspections, and testing from annually to a less frequent period, such as every
29 two, five, or ten years, or upon the sale or transfer of the affected property.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code
2 Council is urged and requested to consider comments from homeowners, plumbing
3 professionals, water suppliers, the Louisiana Department of Health, the State Plumbing
4 Board, the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, and other interested parties
5 during the study process and, if appropriate, to promulgate rules or amendments to the
6 International Plumbing Code and the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code to
7 implement such changes.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 chair of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, the secretary of the
10 Louisiana Department of Health, the chair of the State Plumbing Board, and the chair of the
11 Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.

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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Crews

Requests the La. State Uniform Construction Code Council study whether annual required inspections of backflow prevention devices, barometric loops, and air gaps is necessary or whether a less frequent testing schedule could maintain adequate safety and protection of water while reducing costs to property owners.