

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 253

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

BUILDING CODES: Creates the Task Force on Residential Construction Cost and Inspection Practices

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Task Force on Residential Construction Cost and Inspection Practices, to study
3 and make recommendations regarding the impact of post-2005 building code
4 additions and inspection requirements on the cost of residential construction in this
5 state.

6 WHEREAS, homeowners, homebuilders, and the public have expressed concern that
7 onerous and inconsistent inspection regimes increase housing costs without commensurate
8 gains in public safety, while also creating uncertainty and financial risk for both builders and
9 buyers; and

10 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code was originally enacted
11 pursuant to Act No. 12 of the 2005 First Extraordinary Session with the clear legislative
12 intent to limit mandatory requirements for one- and two-family dwellings to basic building
13 integrity and life-safety standards; and

14 WHEREAS, since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many parishes and municipalities
15 have imposed additional and often conflicting code requirements, energy-efficiency
16 mandates, inspection regimes, and permitting processes that were never contemplated in the
17 original 2005 law; and

18 WHEREAS, these additional requirements have driven significant inflation in the
19 cost of constructing an average single-family home in this state and have created wide
20 disparities in inspection fees, timelines, and enforcement practices across different regions
21 of the state; and

1 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that a comprehensive, data-driven study is
2 necessary to quantify the increase in the average cost of building an average home since
3 2005, to document geographic disparities in inspection costs and practices, and to determine
4 whether new legislation is needed to protect home buyers, home builders, and public safety
5 while restoring the original limited scope of the residential building code.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish the Task Force on Residential Construction
8 Cost and Inspection Practices to study the impact of additions and amendments to the
9 building codes and inspection requirements since 2005 on the cost of residential construction
10 in this state, and provide that this Task Force may propose recommendations, together with
11 specific proposals for legislation. Any recommendations or proposals shall be submitted by
12 written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as
13 required by R.S. 24:771 and 772.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recommends that the task force
15 include consideration of all of the following:

16 (1) The average cost of constructing an average single-family home in Louisiana
17 from 2005 to the present, including a breakdown of how code and inspection requirements
18 have contributed to those costs.

19 (2) Disparities in inspection fees, permitting timelines, and enforcement practices
20 among parishes and municipalities, with particular attention to differences that emerged after
21 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

22 (3) Whether current law adequately protects home buyers, home builders, and public
23 safety, and whether legislation is needed to reaffirm the original intent of Act No. 12 of the
24 2005 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, limit mandatory residential requirements
25 to core integrity and safety standards, address inspection cost disparities, and reduce
26 unnecessary regulatory burdens.

27 (4) A list of legislative recommendations that the task force proposes to affect both
28 near- and long-term change for homeowners, homebuilders, and the economy of the this
29 state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
2 members:

3 (1) Five members of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council
4 appointed by the chairman of the council.

5 (2) Three active homebuilders, licensed in this state appointed by the president of
6 the Louisiana Home Builders Association.

7 (3) One representative of the Louisiana Home Builders Association appointed by the
8 president of that association.

9 (4) One representative of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana appointed by the
10 president of that association.

11 (5) One representative of the Louisiana Municipal Association appointed by the
12 president of that association.

13 (6) One representative of the Department of Insurance appointed by the
14 commissioner of insurance.

15 (7) One representative of the State Licensing Board for Contractors appointed by the
16 chairman of the board.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each appointing authority shall submit the
18 names of the appointees of the task force to the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code
19 Council no later than July 1, 2026.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the first meeting, the members shall elect a
21 chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall convene for its first meeting
23 no later than August 1, 2026, at the call of the Louisiana Uniform Construction Code
24 Council.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Louisiana
26 State Uniform Construction Code Council.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
28 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
29 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rules of Order of the House of
2 Representatives or applicable Joint Rules shall apply to all meetings of the task force.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
4 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be
5 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the task force shall be subject to the
7 Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:11 et seq., and records of the task force shall be subject to the
8 Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate following the
10 conclusion of its business or February 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
12 president of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, the commissioner of
13 insurance, the executive director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, the
14 executive director of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Commission, the
15 president of the Louisiana Home Builders Association, the president of the Police Jury
16 Association of Louisiana, and the president of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

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)]

HR 253 Original

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Owen

Establishes and provides for the Task Force on Residential Construction Cost and Inspection Practices to study the impact of amendments to the building codes and inspection requirements since 2005 on the cost of residential construction in this state.