

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10 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code was originally enacted  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 (8) One member of the Building Officials Association of Louisiana appointed by its  
18 president.

19 (9) One active licensed private inspector of the Louisiana Association of Third-Party  
20 Inspectors appointed by its president.

21 (10) Two active homebuilders appointed by the speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
17 president of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, the commissioner of  
18 insurance, the executive director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, the  
19 executive director of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Commission, the  
20 president of the Louisiana Home Builders Association, the president of the Police Jury  
21 Association of Louisiana, the president of the Building Officials Association of Louisiana,  
22 the president of the Louisiana Association of Third-Party Inspectors, and the president of the  
23 Louisiana Municipal Association.

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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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HR 253 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Add to the membership of the Task Force one member of the Building Officials Association of Louisiana chapter, one active licensed private inspector of the Louisiana Association of Third-Party Inspectors, and two active homebuilders.