

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 253

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

A RESOLUTION

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

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code was originally enacted pursuant to Act No. 12 of the 2005 First Extraordinary Session with the clear legislative intent to limit mandatory requirements for one- and two-family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

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

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

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that a comprehensive, data-driven study is necessary to quantify the increase in the average cost of building an average home since

2005, to document geographic disparities in inspection costs and practices, and to determine whether new legislation is needed to protect home buyers, home builders, and public safety while restoring the original limited scope of the residential building code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) Two representatives of the Louisiana Home Builders Association appointed by the president of that association, one of whom is active in the business of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

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

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

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

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

(8) One member of the Building Officials Association of Louisiana appointed by its president.

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

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

(11) One member of the Louisiana chapter of the American Institute of Architects appointed by the president of that chapter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council, the commissioner of insurance, the executive director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, the executive director of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Commission, the president of the Louisiana Home Builders Association, the president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the president of the Building Officials Association of Louisiana, the president of the Louisiana Association of Third-Party Inspectors, the president of the Louisiana chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and the president of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES