

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE CREWS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council and the Louisiana Department of Health to study and consider amending the provisions of the amended International Plumbing Code, adopted as part of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code, and the provisions of the Sanitary Code, regarding the frequency of inspections and testing of backflow prevention devices, barometric loops, and air gaps, and to promulgate any necessary rules or amendments to implement a less frequent inspection and testing schedule.

WHEREAS, while backflow prevention is essential to protecting the public potable water supply from contamination, the required annual frequency of inspections may exceed what is reasonably necessary to ensure continued operability and safety in many residential and low-hazard applications, thereby creating unnecessary financial burdens without commensurate public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, these mandatory annual inspection and testing requirements impose significant and recurring costs on homeowners, property owners, tenants, and other responsible parties for the hiring of certified testers, documentation and record-keeping, reporting to building officials or water suppliers, and any necessary repairs or replacements; and

WHEREAS, modern backflow prevention assemblies manufactured to current standards of the American Society of Sanitary Engineers and the American Water Works Association are engineered with durable materials and reliable check valve mechanisms that do not typically degrade to a failure condition within a single year of normal residential use; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Health, pursuant to the authority granted in R.S. 40:5, is responsible for protecting the public against disease and injuries from water supplied for drinking, culinary, and other purposes, and for adopting, amending, and promulgating the Sanitary Code to achieve that purpose; and

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council and the Louisiana Department of Health to study the feasibility, safety, and public health impacts of amending the International Plumbing Code and the Sanitary Code as adopted to reduce the required

frequency of backflow prevention assembly, barometric loops, air gap inspections, and testing from annually to a less frequent period, such as every two, five, or ten years, or upon the sale or transfer of the affected property.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE