

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOMANGUE, BAYHAM, BRAUD, BROUSSARD, CARRIER, COATES, DEWITT, GEYMAN, GLORIOSO, KERNER, LACOMBE, JACOB LANDRY, MACK, ORGERON, RISER, AND ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to review Louisiana's floodplain maps and implement updates every five years.

WHEREAS, FEMA is responsible for helping people before, during, and after disasters; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the National Flood Insurance Program to better protect the United States from flooding by providing a unified national program for floodplain management; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic flooding from Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana precipitated drastic changes with FEMA and its oversight and management of floods and flood risks; and

WHEREAS, FEMA's floodplain maps are a fundamental element of the flood insurance program, providing a basis for flood insurance rates and floodplain management regulations; and

WHEREAS, the maps are utilized by governments officials, developers, and planners to determine the vulnerability to flooding when building communities; and

WHEREAS, many existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) may not fully reflect current flood risks due to changing environmental conditions, infrastructure developments, and evolving climate patterns; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is highly vulnerable to flooding due to its low-lying geography, coastal erosion, subsidence, and increased frequency of severe weather events; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana coastal and flood-prone communities are consistently implementing structural mitigation measures such as elevating structures on piers, posts, and pilings, relocating structures, rezoning planning maps, and shoring up levees; and

WHEREAS, in particular, over the past several decades, Louisiana has made significant investments in flood protection, including major levee improvements, ongoing work on the Morganza to Gulf project, and the development of advanced pumping systems across our coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, these efforts represent a strong, sustained commitment to reducing flood risk and protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, accurate and up-to-date floodplain maps are essential tools for protecting lives, guiding responsible development, determining flood insurance requirements, and informing emergency preparedness efforts; and

WHEREAS, outdated or inaccurate floodplain maps can lead to increased property damage, higher recovery costs, and insufficient risk awareness among residents and local governments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request FEMA to conduct a comprehensive review which fully recognizes and accounts for the substantial work and investments made to improve flood mitigation when reevaluating flood risk under Risk Rating 2.0, accurately reflecting the progress Louisiana has made which is essential to ensuring fair and equitable flood insurance rates for Louisiana residents and businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that frequent reviews of the floodplain maps utilizing the most updated and accurate data available be conducted and updates be implemented every five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FEMA is encouraged to collaborate closely with state agencies, parish governments, academic institutions, and local stakeholders to ensure that updated maps reflect on-the-ground conditions and community knowledge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that updated floodplain maps should be made easily accessible to the public and be accompanied by clear guidance to help residents understand their flood risk and insurance implications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the administrator of FEMA, the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE