

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY SENATOR BARTHELEMY

HOUSING. Creates the Dream Starter Program Task Force to study the development and implementation of a unified statewide home ownership assistance program.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Dream Starter Program Task Force to study the development
3 and implementation of a unified statewide homeownership assistance program and
4 to evaluate program design, funding mechanisms, eligibility frameworks, and market
5 feasibility.

6 WHEREAS, expanding sustainable homeownership strengthens workforce stability,
7 local tax bases, and long-term household wealth, and is a critical driver of economic mobility
8 across Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, despite income-qualified households being otherwise mortgage-ready,
10 many Louisiana residents remain unable to purchase homes due to structural barriers,
11 including lack of generational wealth, limited access to upfront capital for down payments
12 and closing costs, and reduced exposure to homeownership pathways; and

13 WHEREAS, research and policy analysis demonstrate that disparities in
14 homeownership are not explained by income alone, but are also driven by intergenerational
15 access to wealth and opportunity, requiring targeted and data-informed policy solutions; and

16 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has considered multiple approaches to
17 expanding access to homeownership, including the "Dream Starter Act" and the "Louisiana
18 First-Generation Homebuyer Assistance Act" which reflect shared objectives but differ in

1 program structure, funding mechanisms, and administrative design; and

2 WHEREAS, a clear opportunity exists to consolidate these approaches into a single,
3 cohesive, and scalable statewide program that balances fiscal responsibility with meaningful
4 impact; and

5 WHEREAS, a unified program must be designed to ensure accountability, market
6 feasibility, and measurable outcomes, while also preserving flexibility to respond to regional
7 housing conditions across urban and rural communities; and

8 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana to develop a program that
9 is both fiscally responsible in its initial implementation and capable of scaling over time
10 based on demonstrated outcomes, return on investment, and program performance; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Housing Corporation, in coordination with state agencies,
12 lenders, and community stakeholders, is uniquely positioned to administer such a program
13 without the creation of additional bureaucratic structures.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
15 does hereby establish and provide for the Dream Starter Program Task Force to study the
16 development and implementation of a unified statewide homeownership assistance program
17 and to evaluate program design, funding mechanisms, eligibility frameworks, and market
18 feasibility.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dream Starter Task Force shall propose
20 recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the
21 legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S.
22 24:771 and R.S. 24:772, no later than January 15, 2027.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include consideration of
24 the following:

- 25 (1) Program structure and design.
- 26 (2) Funding strategy and fiscal impact.
- 27 (3) Eligibility and target population.
- 28 (4) Assistance Structure and Program Terms.
- 29 (5) Market participation and lender accountability.
- 30 (6) Geographic and data-driven targeting.

1 (7) Program outcomes and performance measurement.

2 (8) Implementation and administration.

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

5 (1) The senator from Senate District 3 who shall serve as the chairman of the task
6 force.

7 (2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs who shall
8 serve as vice chair of the task force.

9 (3) The president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Louisiana, or
10 his designee.

11 (4) The executive director of the Housing Authority of New Orleans, or his designee.

12 (5) The chief executive officer of the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority,
13 or his designee.

14 (6) The president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Southeast
15 Louisiana, or his designee.

16 (7) The chief executive officer of Liberty Bank & Trust, or his designee.

17 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, or his designee.

18 (9) The state treasurer, or his designee.

19 (10) The commissioner of the division of administration, or his designee.

20 (11) The chief executive officer of Pelican State Credit Union, or his designee.

21 (12) The chief executive officer of the HOPE Credit Union, or his designee.

22 (13) The fund manager of Community Development Capital, or his designee.

23 (14) The chairman of the board of directors for OnPath Federal Credit Union, or his
24 designee.

25 (15) The New Orleans market president of First Horizon Bank, or his designee.

26 (16) The chief executive officer of Red River Bank, or his designee.

27 (17) The Louisiana region president for Cadence Bank, or his designee.

28 (18) The commissioner of the Department of Insurance, or his designee.

29 (19) The chairperson of the Housing Authority of Jefferson Parish, or his designee.

30 (20) The chairman of the board of directors of the Kenner Housing Authority, or his

1 designee.

2 (21) The executive director of the Westwego Housing Authority, or his designee.

3 (22) The New Orleans field office director of the United States Department of
4 Housing and Urban Development, or his designee.

5 (23) The director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency
6 Preparedness, or his designee.

7 (24) The chief executive officer of Home by Hand, or his designee.

8 (25) The executive director of the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, or his
9 designee.

10 (26) The director of homeowner services at the Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany
11 West, or his designee.

12 (27) The executive director of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, or his
13 designee.

14 (28) The director of policy and communications of the Louisiana Fair Housing
15 Action Center, or his designee.

16 (29) The chief executive officer of the Neighborhood Development Foundation, or
17 his designee.

18 (30) The executive director of HousingNOLA, or his designee.

19 (31) The senior vice president and regional community affairs manager at Regions
20 Bank, or his designee.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
22 names of any designees to the task force to the chairman of the task force no later than
23 August 1, 2026.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no
25 later than September 30, 2026, at the call of chairman, and at the first meeting, the members
26 shall elect officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this study the task force will seek
28 input and advice from any additional stakeholders the task force deems appropriate.

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

1 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

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

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, for purposes of its meetings and
6 accomplishing its goals, shall be staffed by the staff of the Senate Committee on Local and
7 Municipal Affairs.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
9 submission of its report or July 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Louisiana, the executive
12 director of the Housing Authority of New Orleans, the chief executive officer of the East
13 Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority, the president and chief executive officer of the
14 United Way of Southeast Louisiana, the chief executive officer of Liberty Bank & Trust, the
15 executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, the state treasurer, the
16 commissioner of the division of administration, the chief executive officer of Pelican State
17 Credit Union, the chief executive officer of the HOPE Credit Union, the fund manager of
18 Community Development Capital, the chairman of the board of directors for OnPath Federal
19 Credit Union, the New Orleans market president of First Horizon Bank, the chief executive
20 officer of Red River Bank, the Louisiana region president for Cadence Bank, the
21 commissioner of the Department of Insurance, the chairperson of the Housing Authority of
22 Jefferson Parish, the chairman of the board of directors of the Kenner Housing Authority,
23 the executive director of the Westwego Housing Authority, The New Orleans field office
24 director of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the director
25 of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the chief
26 executive officer of Home by Hand, the executive director of the Jericho Road Episcopal
27 Housing Initiative, the director of Homeowner Services at the Habitat for Humanity St.
28 Tammany West, the executive director of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, the
29 director of policy and communications of the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, the
30 chief executive officer of the Neighborhood Development Foundation, the executive director

1 of HousingNOLA, and the senior vice president and regional community affairs manager
2 at Regions Bank.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

SR 168 Original	DIGEST 2026 Regular Session	Barthelemy
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