

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 196

BY SENATOR BARROW

BLIGHTED PROPERTY. Creates a statewide taskforce to study and make recommendations on implementing a comprehensive plan to address property blight within the state.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Task Force on Blight to study and make recommendations on
3 implementing a comprehensive plan to address property blight within the state.

4 WHEREAS, dilapidated properties and overgrown lots, otherwise known as blight,
5 have long been among the parishes' and municipalities' most vexing challenges; and

6 WHEREAS, over the last forty years the legislature has sought ways to address blight
7 across the state by enacting several statutes; and

8 WHEREAS, in the 1980s, the legislature sought to address blight by enacting Act
9 571 of the 1984 Regular Session which is referred to as the Urban Land-Banking Law; and

10 WHEREAS, under the Urban Land-Banking Law the legislature's findings and
11 declaration state in part that "[t]here exist in many cities of the state economically and
12 physically depressed residential neighborhood areas which, among other things, suffer from
13 high unemployment, substandard and deteriorated structures, vacant and partially used lots,
14 overcrowded housing, high crime rates, and other blighting influences and undesirable
15 conditions"; and

16 WHEREAS, in the 1990s, the legislature enacted the Slum Clearance Law as Act
17 1188 of the 1997 Regular Session authorizing municipalities to tackle slum conditions in a
18 just and legal way; and

1 WHEREAS, a portion of the Slum Clearance Law states "[w]henver any
2 municipality finds that there exists within it dwellings which are unfit for human habitation
3 due to dilapidation; defects increasing the hazards of fires, accidents, or other calamities;
4 lack of ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities, or other conditions rendering the dwellings
5 unsafe and unsanitary and dangerous or detrimental to health, safety, or morals, or that there
6 are dwellings therein which are otherwise inimical to the welfare of its residents, it may
7 exercise its police powers to remedy or eliminate those conditions in the manner provided
8 in this Part"; and

9 WHEREAS, in the 2000s, the legislature enacted the Louisiana Housing Preservation
10 Act as Act 355 of the 2006 Regular Session to address blighted and abandoned residential
11 housing properties by authorizing the creation of a "blighted property list" which is prepared
12 and periodically updated by a designated public official that identifies blighted housing
13 properties in the jurisdiction of the local governmental subdivision; and

14 WHEREAS, the legislature seeks to address property blight by studying and
15 reviewing comprehensive plans to eradicate blight in Louisiana.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17 does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Blight to study implementing a
18 comprehensive plan to address property blight within the state, and to propose
19 recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the
20 legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S.
21 24:771 and 772, no later than March 1, 2027.

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

- 24 (1) A strategic plan to abate blight within the state.
- 25 (2) Use of data-driven decision-making.
- 26 (3) Strategic deployment of resources and place-based revitalization.

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

- 29 (1) The president of the Senate or his designee, who shall serve as the chairman of
30 the task force.

- 1 (2) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- 2 (3) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, or his
- 3 designee.
- 4 (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural
- 5 Affairs, or his designee.
- 6 (5) The mayor of the city of New Orleans, or her designee.
- 7 (6) The mayor-president of East Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.
- 8 (7) The mayor of the city of Shreveport, or his designee.
- 9 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.
- 10 (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Police Jury Association, or his designee.
- 11 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, or his designee.
- 12 (11) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
- 13 (12) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his designee.
- 14 (13) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
16 names of designees to the task force to the secretary of the Senate no later than August 1,
17 2026.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no
19 later than September 15, 2026, at the call of the chairman, and at the first meeting, the
20 members shall elect a vice chairman and other officers as the task force may deem
21 appropriate.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be staffed by the Senate
23 Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs.

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

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve

