

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY

ELECTIONS: Requests the Louisiana secretary of state to work cooperatively with other agencies to contact all displaced individuals to provide them information relative to their voting rights and how to register to vote and vote in upcoming elections

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To strongly urge and request the Louisiana secretary of state to make every extraordinary
3 effort and to work with other state and federal agencies to contact individuals
4 displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in order to provide them information
5 relative to their voting rights and how to register to vote and vote in upcoming
6 elections.

7 WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state is facing
8 numerous unprecedented challenges related to voting and elections issues; and

9 WHEREAS, of vital importance is the need for all citizens who have been displaced
10 by the storms to be informed about their voting rights as well as how to register to vote and
11 vote in upcoming elections; and

12 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the secretary of state's office and the Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency as well as other state and federal agencies work
14 cooperatively to obtain the names and addresses of citizens who have been displaced and
15 that they unify to make a coordinated and unwavering effort across agency lines to work in
16 the best interest of Louisiana's displaced citizens by providing them with all necessary voting
17 information; and

18 WHEREAS, a national public service advertising campaign should be implemented,
19 pro bono if possible, employing radio, television, direct mail, and all other potential methods
20 of communication in order to reach the displaced Louisianians who are now residing in other

1 parts of the state and all over the nation, including informing them of their voting rights
2 under Louisiana election laws, how to seek an absentee ballot in time for the elections, and
3 that if they register to vote in another state, they will lose their right to vote in Louisiana; and

4 WHEREAS, civic participation is a key element of allowing displaced citizens to
5 regain some semblance of a normal life, and the state must take every feasible measure to
6 ensure that these Louisiana citizens are able to make their voices heard by being provided
7 with information about voting; and

8 WHEREAS, it is crucial that all possible measures be developed and implemented
9 to ensure that all individuals displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are fully informed
10 about their voting rights and voting procedures.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12 strongly urge and request the Louisiana secretary of state to make every extraordinary effort
13 and to work cooperatively with other state and federal agencies to contact individuals
14 displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in order to provide them information relative to
15 their voting rights and how to register to vote and vote in upcoming elections.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
17 to the Louisiana secretary of state and to the director of the Federal Emergency Management
18 Agency.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Gray

HCR No. 31

Strongly urges the La. secretary of state to make every extraordinary effort and to work with other state and federal agencies to contact individuals displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in order to provide them information relative to their voting rights and how to register to vote and vote in upcoming elections.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

In language explaining the reasons for the Resolution:

1. Specifies that the national advertising campaign be a public service campaign.
2. Provides that the national advertising be pro bono if possible.