

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

BY SENATOR WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request local governing authorities, in consultation with parish offices of homeland security and emergency preparedness, to consider adopting local ordinances to require unlicensed residential facilities for seniors or persons with disabilities to have generators or alternative electrical power sources.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has experienced multiple devastating hurricanes that have caused extensive power outages in the past five years; and

WHEREAS, during the severe winter storm in January 2026, many residents in north Louisiana were left without power for days; and

WHEREAS, certain populations, including the elderly and disabled, are highly vulnerable during extended power outages caused by natural disasters, with an increased risk for cardiovascular and respiratory crises, hypothermia or hyperthermia, and the failure of life-sustaining medical equipment; and

WHEREAS, due to certain unlicensed facilities housing these vulnerable populations, considerations of backup power to essential systems like heating, air conditioning, fire alarms, and emergency lighting are critical to stopping the creation of additional life-threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, these measures are designed to prevent such tragedies and keep residents and staff safe during emergencies while minimizing the use of 911 and impacts on public safety; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 253 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana required all nursing homes to have a generator or other Louisiana Department of Health approved alternate electrical power source; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 145 of the 2026 Regular Session would require all adult residential care providers to have a generator or other alternate electrical power source; and

WHEREAS, rental housing specifically designated for the elderly and persons with disabilities receiving supportive housing services, including but not limited to housing facilities that receive funding or financing support from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, are not regulated by the state and do not have to meet the same requirements as state-regulated and licensed facilities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 29:729, each parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness is required to prepare and maintain an all hazards emergency operations plan that includes the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by disaster or emergency and recommendations for zoning, building, and other land use controls and other preventive and preparedness measures designed to eliminate or reduce disasters or their impact; and

WHEREAS, local governing authorities can regulate by ordinance critical safety measures for any setting in which multiple unrelated individuals are residing in a home and those individuals are paying rent or other compensation for such shelter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request local governing authorities, in consultation with parish offices of homeland security and emergency preparedness, to consider adopting local ordinances to require unlicensed residential facilities for seniors or persons with disabilities to have generators or alternative electrical power sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Municipal Association and the Policy Jury Association of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE