
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

Proposed law creates the Housing and Transportation Planning and Coordinating Commission within the office of community development (OCD) in the division of administration. Provides that the primary purpose of the commission will be coordinating the integration of the planning and spending by local governments, parish governing authorities, redevelopment authorities, housing authorities, and the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) on housing and transportation needs. Provides that the goal shall be for multiple modes of transportation and multiple types of housing developments to be planned and executed so as to provide planned rational growth, more fully integrated and livable communities, and effective spending of public funds for the betterment of life for Louisiana citizens.

Proposed law provides for a 16-member commission who serve without salary or reimbursement. Requires that efforts be made, to the extent practical, for the members to reflect Louisiana's diversity in terms of gender, geography and race. Provides the commission shall be staffed by the OCD.

Proposed law provides that the OCD, in consultation with the commission, shall create a statewide housing plan. Requires that, in the development and maintenance of the plan, the OCD conduct a parish-by-parish assessment of housing. Provides that the assessment be conducted once every five years and that the statewide housing plan be updated based on the most recent assessment. Requires that all parish governing authorities, local governments, redevelopment authorities, and local housing authorities cooperate with the OCD in the conduct of the assessment.

Proposed law requires the assessments to document the following:

- (1) The overall supply of housing including single-family, multi-family, special needs, and institutional housing.
- (2) The conditions of the housing stock.
- (3) The housing cost burden in each parish.
- (4) Access to transit and job centers in each parish or metropolitan planning area.

Proposed law requires as part of the assessment that the OCD hold not fewer than three public hearings in each region of the state. Provides that in each region, each such hearing shall be held at a different time of day and on a different day of the week from the other meetings in that region in order to maximize the opportunity for citizen participation.

Proposed law requires the OCD at regular intervals and in public meetings to update the commission on the progress of the development of the statewide housing plan and maintenance thereof or any updates thereto. Requires that OCD submit the developed plan, or once developed any recommended updates to such plan, to the commission for approval, approval with comments, or rejection. Provides that any plan or update which is rejected by the commission shall not be incorporated into the statewide housing plan.

Proposed law provides that the OCD, in consultation with the commission, has the following powers and duties:

- (1) To define the planning and housing regions of the state.
- (2) To determine public and alternative transportation needs.
- (3) To estimate low and moderate income housing needs.
- (4) To establish criteria and guidelines for parishes and municipalities to determine and address their local affordable housing needs, to promote consistency and uniformity in the information obtained and reported.
- (5) To establish criteria and guidelines for parishes, municipalities, and redevelopment authorities and metropolitan planning organizations to coordinate and address local and regional transportation needs, to promote consistency and uniformity in the information obtained and reported.
- (6) To establish a schedule and criteria for review of housing and transportation plans for parishes and municipalities, and provide technical assistance to those parishes and municipalities unable to develop plans consistent with the established criteria and guidelines, to determine consistency with established criteria and guidelines to address local affordable housing and transportation needs.

Proposed law requires that in accordance with the plan developed and in partnership with parish and municipal governing authorities, the OCD, in consultation with the commission, shall allocate the targeting of federal and state housing funds to areas of greatest need. Also requires the OCD to work in partnership with the DOTD to ensure that not less than 10% of the federal transportation funds appropriated for Louisiana are utilized to alternative modes of transportation, including public transit, bus rapid transit, and rail and bike paths.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 40:600.81)