

Regular Session, 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY SENATOR BROOME

HOUSING. Requests the Louisiana Recovery Authority to develop plans to allocate Community Development Block Grant funds in certain ways and to aggressively identify other funding for housing priorities. (8/15/09)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Recovery Authority to provide new action plans to spend  
3 Community Development Block Grant funds allowing nonprofit organizations to  
4 perform cost, construction and case management and emergency rental assistance  
5 and to use unallocated Community Development Block Grant or other identified  
6 funds to fill discrepancies for Louisiana recipients receiving housing grants.

7 WHEREAS, while the housing recovery progress can be witnessed across hurricane  
8 disaster zones, rebuilding dependent upon public recovery resources continues to be  
9 thwarted by program bottlenecks; and

10 WHEREAS, insufficient resources to address lingering homeowner needs and repair  
11 costs have become apparent; and

12 WHEREAS, construction, insurance and utility costs continue to rise, making  
13 recovery and long-term housing sustainability extremely difficult for income restrained  
14 households; and

15 WHEREAS, the problems created by the Road Home Program grant discrepancies  
16 and the delays surrounding the small rental programs have especially impacted the  
17 neighborhoods and parishes with the highest flooding potential and lower pre-storm values;  
18 and

1           WHEREAS, to expedite housing recovery, the Louisiana Recovery Authority should  
2 develop new and continual action plans to allocate Community Development Block Grant  
3 funds and to aggressively identify other funding for nonprofit organizations to provide cost  
4 evaluation, construction, case management and other needed services; and

5           WHEREAS, approximately seventeen thousand Louisiana households depend on  
6 temporary housing assistance programs and another four thousand six hundred are in full-  
7 size trailers, park model campers or manufactured homes, or continue to receive Federal  
8 Emergency Management Agency housing assistance; and

9           WHEREAS, temporary housing assistance from the Federal Emergency Management  
10 Agency is anticipated to expire August 2009, and other affordable units are not expected to  
11 be available by this deadline, leaving many citizens without options; and

12           WHEREAS, an estimated three-fifths of grant recipients in the rebuilding phase of  
13 recovery have found discrepancies in program formulas based on assessed values rather than  
14 damage estimates; and

15           WHEREAS, unallocated Community Development Block Grant, Road Home  
16 Program and other identified funds should be made available to homeowners to close the  
17 gaps between damage estimates and compensation awards; and

18           WHEREAS, determined and verified compensation should be used to cover cost due  
19 to administrative errors, problematic appeals or gaps due to damage estimates that are  
20 determined to be higher than pre-storm home values; and

21           WHEREAS, Louisianians have spent three and half years waiting to rebuild their  
22 lives and homes and for many, the situation remains a critical matter.

23           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
24 urge and request the Louisiana Recovery Authority to provide new action plans to spend  
25 Community Development Block Grant funds allowing nonprofit organizations to perform  
26 cost, construction and case management and emergency rental housing assistance.

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Recovery Authority should use  
28 unallocated Community Development Block Grant, Road Home Program or other identified  
29 funds to fill verified discrepancies for Louisiana recipients receiving housing grants.

30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

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DIGEST

Broome

SCR No.

Requests the LRA to develop new action plans and aggressively identify funds allowing nonprofit organizations to perform cost, construction and case management and emergency rental housing assistance for Louisiana citizens needing temporary service.

Requests the LRA to use unallocated CDBG, Road Home Program, and other identified funds to fill gaps for grant recipients after determining discrepancies between damage estimates, pre-storm values and actual awards received.