

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATORS BROWN AND GARY SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the allocation of federal funds received by the state as the result of damage sustained from Hurricane Isaac so that the monies are apportioned among the various parishes in which damage was sustained based upon the amount of damage within each parish compared to the total amount of damage to the state.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana, particularly in the southeastern portion of the state, mindful of the devastation and destruction wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the state at the end of August 2005, spent the end of August 2012 preparing for Hurricane Isaac while watching the weather reports and forecasts on the progress of the hurricane as it approached landfall; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Isaac made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane on August 28, 2012, and stalled over the warm marsh for three days causing flooding in many areas in Louisiana that do not normally flood, with the pounding winds and relentless rain of that weather system; and

WHEREAS, within hours of landfall, nine hundred three thousand utility customers in Louisiana were without power, and within days after the storm making landfall, relief agencies were estimating at least thirteen thousand homes were damaged as a result of Hurricane Isaac, with thousands of residents being driven from their homes, making efforts to protect property from further damage difficult if not impossible; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2013, Secretary Shaun Donovan of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the allocation of nearly one hundred seven million dollars to the state of Louisiana to help local communities to recover from the losses sustained as a result of Hurricane Isaac, of which sixteen million four hundred fifty-three thousand dollars is allocated to Jefferson Parish, fifteen million thirty-one thousand dollars is allocated to Orleans Parish, eight million eight hundred ninety-six

thousand dollars is allocated to St. Tammany Parish, and sixty-six million, three hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars is allocated to the state; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the allocation and distribution of that portion of the grant allocated to the state in such a way that the most impacted and distressed parishes receive the greater portion of the funds available, using the best available data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal sources to determine the total dollar amount of housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the grant allocated to the state should be distributed such that those parishes of the state that are the most impacted and distressed as a result of Hurricane Isaac receive at least eighty percent of the nearly one hundred seven million dollars provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for recovery from Hurricane Isaac based on the calculated unmet needs of each of those parishes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct that the monies received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, by reason of the damage sustained by the state from Hurricane Isaac, from the Community Development Block Grant Program to support long-term disaster recovery efforts by the state of Louisiana, as grantee, in the amount of sixty-six million, three hundred ninety-eight thousand dollars be allocated to and distributed such that at least eighty percent of the total funds allocated to the state, nearly one hundred seven million dollars, be used in the parishes of the state in the proportion of each of those parish's calculated unmet needs resulting from Hurricane Isaac, excluding the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Tammany, using the best available data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal sources to determine the total dollar amount of housing, economic revitalization, and infrastructure needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for purposes of this Resolution, the terms "parish" or "parishes" mean any parish which is in whole or in part in the area with respect to which a disaster has been declared by the President of the United States under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by reason of Hurricane Isaac.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provisions of this Resolution shall be applied in accordance with regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of administration.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES