

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

HOUSING: Urges and requests the Louisiana Housing Corporation to study issues related to the rising number of homeless individuals in Louisiana and the lack of affordable housing and to identify potential funding sources to address these issues

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Housing Corporation to study issues related to the rising
3 number of homeless individuals in Louisiana, the lack of affordable housing in our
4 state, and to identify potential funding sources to address these issues and to report
5 its findings to the House of Representatives and the House Committee on
6 Appropriations of the Legislature of Louisiana prior to March 1, 2023.

7 WHEREAS, homelessness in our nation impacts all races, creeds, and genders; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
9 reported a 7.9% increase in homelessness in Louisiana between 2019 and 2020; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness,
11 as of January 2020, Louisiana had an estimated 3,173 persons experiencing homelessness
12 on any given day, with that total comprised in part of families, veterans, unaccompanied
13 young adults age 18-24, and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness; and

14 WHEREAS, agencies and non-profits across the state that offer services to the
15 homeless report increased needs since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the
16 numerous hurricanes and other natural disasters impacting our state; and

17 WHEREAS, homeless service providers in most regions of this state are unable to
18 regularly attend legislative hearings and provide vital information to lawmakers on the depth
19 and breadth of the homelessness problem our state is facing; and

1 WHEREAS, new homeless counts for Louisiana are expected to be released in the
2 next several months and will show the extent of Hurricane Ida's impact on homelessness in
3 our state; and

4 WHEREAS, in addition to recent devastating natural disasters, other factors such as
5 the short supply of affordable housing, the increase in average rental prices, increasing rates
6 of inflation, and rising flood and insurance premiums, cut away at the financial security of
7 our population pushing some families and individuals further towards housing insecurity;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is a
10 shortage of affordable rental homes available to extremely low income households in the
11 state, with only 45 such homes available for every 100 renter households as of 2020; and

12 WHEREAS, homelessness has a direct impact on access to healthcare, poor health
13 outcomes, poor rates of participation in all levels of education, and negatively affects
14 wage-earning potential for individuals suffering homelessness; and

15 WHEREAS, the use of state and federal funding on programs and assistance targeted
16 to decrease homelessness by providing safe, affordable housing for families and individuals
17 experiencing homelessness seems to have a direct impact on improving access to healthcare
18 and health outcomes and reducing recurring state expenses for incarceration and foster care.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Housing Corporation
21 to study issues related to the rising number of homeless individuals in Louisiana and the lack
22 of affordable housing and to identify potential funding sources to address these issues, and
23 to report its findings to the House of Representatives and the House Committee on
24 Appropriations of the Legislature of Louisiana prior to March 1, 2023.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Housing Corporation is requested
26 to conduct a public hearing for purposes of studying this issue to solicit comments from the
27 public and interested stakeholder organizations on the following topics:

28 (1) Annual point-in-time homelessness counts in the state of Louisiana by
29 Continuums of Care and other homeless service providers.

1 (2) Homeless service providers' capacity, shelter bed counts, and the availability of
2 affordable housing in communities across the state.

3 (3) Information concerning factors contributing to increases in family homelessness
4 across the state.

5 (4) Information concerning the number of children enrolled in public schools
6 experiencing homelessness in this state.

7 (5) Information concerning the relationship between housing stability to decreased
8 government expenses on healthcare, incarceration, foster care, and other programs for
9 individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

10 (6) Potential state and federal funding sources for the construction or rehabilitation
11 of non-congregant shelters, deeply affordable housing, and other solutions to keep Louisiana
12 families from experiencing homelessness.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 194 Original

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Hughes

Urges and requests the La. Housing Corporation to study issues related to the rising number of homeless individuals in La. and the lack of affordable housing and to identify potential funding sources to address these issues, and to report its findings to the House of Representatives and the House Committee on Appropriations prior to March 1, 2023.