

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to convene a study to assess affordable housing needs in our state and to research current best practices and model programs to identify potential recurring revenue streams for the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund.

WHEREAS, there is a growing gap between what renters and home buyers can afford and available housing in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, in 2005, more than three hundred thousand households, representing nearly one million Louisianians were in need of adequate and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and later by Gustav and Ike exacerbated the already critical shortage of available adequate and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Louisiana Legislature directed the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency to create and establish the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund to assist low income individuals and families in accessing adequate and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, since its creation, monies in the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund have been available for the purposes of loans and investments in developing, rehabilitating, and preserving affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, some of the greatest challenges facing the fund are insufficient revenue to meet the ever growing demand and the lack of a long-term strategy for funding sufficient to meet the need; and

WHEREAS, other states, such as Colorado, have convened coalitions to better quantify the affordable housing needs in their state and then identify potential

sources of recurring revenue to address such needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to convene a study to assess affordable housing needs in our state and research current best practices and model programs to identify potential recurring revenue streams for the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall specifically solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of those who can provide relevant information and suggestions to the committee based upon their expertise and experience, including but not limited to the following:

1. A representative of PolicyLink.
2. A representative of the Louisiana Housing Alliance.
3. A representative of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation.
4. A representative of the Louisiana Realtors' Association.
5. A representative of Catholic Charities.
6. A representative of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations.
7. A representative of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center.
8. A representative of the Louisiana Advocacy Coalition for the Homeless.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of the following state officials:

1. President of the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency or his designee.
2. Executive Director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority or her designee.
3. Secretary of the Department of Social Services or her designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all departments, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the committee in providing information to assist the committee in carrying out its responsibility pursuant to this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the findings and recommendations shall be prepared by the committee of the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs and submitted to the Senate on or before January 31,

2011, and that such report specifically include recommendations on the best options for public or other revenues to be dedicated to the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE