

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to study and report to the House Committee on Commerce a list of recommended statutory changes to be made to the state uniform construction code to better meet the needs of the citizens of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Louisiana Legislature found it necessary to adopt mandatory construction standards; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature promulgated a state uniform construction code to govern the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of buildings and other structures and the installation of mechanical devices and equipment therein; and

WHEREAS, the public policy of Louisiana is to maintain reasonable standards of construction in buildings and other structures in the state consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a statewide building code was needed for the safety and security of the people of Louisiana in the event of future hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code establishes uniform performance standards providing reasonable safeguards for health, safety, welfare, comfort, and security balanced with affordability for the residents of Louisiana who are occupants and users of buildings and provides for the use of modern methods, devices, materials, and techniques; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code encourages the use of construction materials of the greatest durability and lower long-term costs and provides greater storm resistance; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav, there is an abundance of new construction occurring in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the primary function of the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council is to review and adopt the state uniform construction code, provide for training and education of code officials, and accept all requests for amendments of the code, except the Louisiana State Plumbing Code [Part XIV (Plumbing) of the State Sanitary Code]; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the council is required by law to establish the requirements and process for the certification and continuing education of code enforcement officers, code enforcement inspectors, and building officials and to determine if any amendments to the state uniform construction code are justified; and

WHEREAS, if the council determines that an amendment is justified, it may enact such an amendment after a finding on the record that the modification provides a reasonable degree of public health, safety, affordability, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the council is required by law to submit the updated state uniform construction code to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs for oversight and approval; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the council shall provide the members of each house of the legislature a summary of the major proposed changes to the International Residential Code at the time of submission to the oversight committees; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous additions and changes made to the state uniform construction code since it was originally enacted in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the changes to the state uniform construction code can have a significant impact on the cost of constructing a residential dwelling or commercial building; and

WHEREAS, especially during an economic downturn, it is incumbent upon the leadership of this state to assist its citizens by ensuring that the laws, rules, and regulations of this state meet the goal of providing a reasonable degree of public health, safety, affordability, and welfare.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to study and report to the House Committee on Commerce a list of recommended statutory changes to be made to the state uniform construction code to better meet the needs of the citizens of Louisiana no later than January 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council to provide a copy of the report to each member of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES