

SENATE BILL NO. 755

BY SENATORS HEBERT AND MURRAY AND REPRESENTATIVE SAM JONES

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:600.66(A)(7) and (B), relative to the Louisiana Road Home Housing Corporation Act; to provide for the powers and responsibilities of the Road Home Corporation and the Louisiana Land Trust; to provide for the binding effect on certain appraisals; to prohibit certain forced sales of property; to provide for review of certain decisions of the office of community development; to provide for certain uses of Road Home funds; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:600.66(A)(7) and (B) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§600.66. Powers and responsibilities of the Road Home Corporation and the Louisiana Land Trust

A. In addition to the powers granted it by the general Nonprofit Corporation Law, Title 12 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, the Road Home Corporation shall have the power to undertake any project, in adherence to the policy guidelines for rebuilding, recovery, and land use management set forth by the Louisiana Recovery Authority, to provide for the financing thereof as administered by the office of community development, and in connection therewith:

* * *

(7) In connection with Road Home grant post-closing regulatory compliance reviews being conducted by the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the office of community development, as to any Road Home applicant who has on or before June 10, 2008, exhausted his remedies of appealing to the Road Home Appeals Panel and further to the office of community development and

1 for whom a decision was issued by the office of community development on or
2 before June 10, 2008, denying the relief sought by the Road Home applicant
3 through his appeal, the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the office of
4 community development shall provide the applicant the opportunity to have the
5 applicant's grant file reviewed by the third person or agency contracted by the
6 division of administration to conduct the post-closing regulatory compliance
7 reviews. The applicant shall be afforded the opportunity to receive any grant
8 award or additional disbursement which the review process discloses were
9 eligible amounts which should have been awarded.

10 B. Housing assistance rendered by the Road Home Corporation or the
11 Louisiana Land Trust or rendered through any other housing assistance
12 program under the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to the following:

13 (1) Any certified property appraisal or market analysis conducted by the
14 Road Home Corporation or the Louisiana Land Trust shall be binding on the
15 corporation. If more than one certified property appraisal or market analysis
16 is rendered, the property owner shall receive assistance based upon the higher
17 certified appraisal value or the analysis most favorable to the property owner.

18 (2) No individual shall be required to sell property in excess of five acres
19 if the property was unimproved land or was regularly used in farming
20 operations immediately prior to hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

21 (3) No individual shall be required to sell property in which the
22 individual holds an undivided ownership interest with family members as legal
23 heirs to such property.

24 (4) No individual shall be required to sell property in which the
25 individual has a divided interest in the property which is contiguous to five or
26 more acres owned by the individual and his immediate family.

27 Section 2. Any funds expended in support of the activities provided in R.S.
28 40:600.66(B) shall be limited to expenditures of Community Development Block Grant
29 monies pursuant to supplemental appropriations authorized by the United States Congress
30 through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the state of

1 Louisiana under the provisions of P.L. 109-148, P.L. 109-234, or P.L. 110-116.

2 Section 3. Within thirty days of the effective date of this Act, the Louisiana
3 Recovery Authority is hereby authorized and directed to prepare an Action Plan Amendment
4 for implementing the provisions of R.S. 40:600.66(B) as provided in Section 1 of this Act,
5 which Action Plan Amendment shall be submitted for the review and approval of the
6 governor, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the legislature, all in
7 accordance with the provisions of P.L. 109-148, P.L. 109-234, or P.L. 110-116 and in
8 accordance with the provisions of R.S. 49:220.5, which Action Plan Amendment shall be
9 submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its review and
10 approval.

11 Section 4. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall become effective only if and when such
12 Action Plan Amendment for implementing the provisions of R.S. 40:600.66(B) as provided
13 in Section 1 of this Act is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
14 Development.

15 Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____