

***Louisiana Recovery Authority  
2008 Regular Session  
Legislative Report***

**HB 622 Tucker**

*Passed with amendments*

- Reduces the membership of the LRA Board of Directors from the original 33 members to 17 members. The bill in its original form reduced the board to 15. It was amended to include 4 ex-officio members as opposed to 2 ex-officio members – the Senate President, Senate Pro Tem, House Speaker and House Speaker Pro Tem. Ex-officio members may appoint a legislator to serve in their official capacity until such designation is revoked. Seven members must be appointed from each of the seven Congressional districts and the remaining six are at large, all appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Governor pending Senate confirmation until July 1, 2010. The LRA was moved under the Division of Administration. The bill grants legislative authority to the LRA Executive Director to implement programs including the Road Home, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation programs and other services to the recovery. The bill reduces the length of terms and provides for the powers, duties, and functions of the authority, the board and executive director; authorizes the LRA to implement special programs including HMGP, Public Assistance, Road Home and alternative housing. Governor Jindal signed into law.

**HB 910 Tucker**

*Passed with amendments*

- Requires Office of Community Development to report monthly to the Legislative Audit Advisory Council with respect to payments, subcontractors, and performance by ICF under their contract to administer the Road Home Program. The report shall contain information relating to subcontractors, inclusive of subcontractors to subcontractors to include payments made on the contract to contractors and subcontractors and the value of the contract. The reports shall also include contract performance in the achievement of goals and objectives of the contract and any penalties which may have been assessed for insufficient performance.

**HB 935 Fannin**

*Passed*

- Transfers LRA and LRA Board of Directors to the Division of Administration. All statutory authority for the LRA ceases on July 1, 2010 and removes reference to re-creation. (duplicate to SB 572 Michot)

### **HB 962 Peterson**

*Vetoed by Governor Jindal*

Establishes the LA Statewide Educational Facilities Fund; this is the funding mechanism to SB 632 Gray to establish the Authority; \$60M fiscal note

Veto: Educational Facilities Fund in the State Treasury, opening the door for state funding of local school buildings. The funding of public school facilities has traditionally been a local responsibility driven by the needs and wishes of citizens in each school district. Funding is provided through the approval of local efforts and limited discretionary monies received by the school systems from the state's Minimum Foundation Program (MFP). In addition to funding from the enrollment-based MFP formula, increased revenues raised through local efforts are eligible for reward funding in which the state contributes a match, thereby providing school systems with even more discretionary money.

### **HB 997 Morrell**

*Passed the House and did not receive a Senate hearing*

- Prohibits former public servants in the office of the governor, including DOA, from being employed by or entering into a contract with a person who has a contract with the state valued at \$200M for more for a period of five years after the termination of public service. The bill was amended on the house floor to lower the contract value to \$50M. Final status - pending senate committee hearing.

### **HB 1001 Marchand & Richmond**

*Hearing not scheduled*

- Provides for the disposition of properties owned by The Road Home Corporation located in New Orleans. Orleans authority to receive the property must adopt the following method:
  - 1.)offer property to adjacent landowner
  - 2.)offer property to landowner within one residential block
  - 3.)offer property to any resident of Orleans parish

### **HB 1251 Peterson**

*Hearing not scheduled*

- Increases the number of Road Home Corp. board members from 7 to 9.

### **HCR 22 Leger**

*Passed & filed with Secretary of State*

- Memorializes the Louisiana Congressional delegation to seek waivers of all required state and local find matches to federal funding for coastal restoration and protection projects.

**HCR 39 Hutter**

*Passed & filed with Secretary of State*

- Urges and requests the U.S. Congress to provide the state of LA with one-hundred-year-flood protection.

**HCR 58 Richmond**

*Resolution did not receive a hearing*

- Public Contracts: Legislature directs DOA/OCD to cancel state contract with ICF Emergency Management Services, LLC and directs the agency to pursue all legal avenues to recoup the public monies which have been paid so far for totally inadequate performance.

**SB 100 Sheppard**

*Bill did not receive a hearing*

- Requires the Governor's Economic Rapid Response program bridge loans or guarantees made pursuant to the recent hurricane emergencies be converted to cooperative endeavor agreements and the proceeds loaned or guaranteed be converted to grants pursuant to each cooperative endeavor agreement.

**SB 425 Murray**

*Voluntarily deferred by author*

- All appeals from any decisions of the OCD or Road Home Corp. on Road Home claims may appeal the decision within 30 days to the district court where the housing stock was damaged from hurricanes Katrina and/or Rita.

**SB 636 Murray**

*Failed house final passage*

- Permits property owners that have been adversely affected by a decision or rulings of OCD in the administration of the Road Home, to appeal that decision or ruling to the district court for a judicial review de novo. The right to receive a de novo judicial review is retroactive to the inception of the Road Home Program both to the interpretation of the program and to decisions taken under the program.

### **SB 740 Sheppard**

*Passed out of senate committee; died pending senate floor action*

- Creates the Louisiana Road Home program applicants' Bill of Rights; directs the LRA board to adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions and penalties of the Bill of Rights. The bill received several hearings before passing out of committee. CHAT was very involved in supporting this bill.

### **SB 755 Hebert**

- The engrossed version of this bill provided that if the Road Home program provides a property appraisal or market analysis, the appraisal or market analysis will be binding in favor of a person who reasonably relies upon such information. The bill was amended on the house floor and the senate rejected the house amendments, sending it to conference committee.
- The final version:
  - Requires Road Home grant post-closing regulatory compliance reviews to be conducted by LRA/OCD for applicants who have exhausted his/her remedies of appeals.
  - Directs LRA to create an action plan amendment to change policy to allow applicants who rely on certified property appraisals or market analysis provided by the Road Home Corporation or LLT to be binding. Assistance will be based on the highest appraisal submitted by the property owner.
  - requires Road Home policy change for individuals who own in excess of 5 acres of unimproved land, they will not be required to sell property under options 2 & 3; individuals will not be required to sell an undivided interest in family property; and an individual will not be required to sell a divided interest in property which is contiguous to five or more acres owned by the individual and his immediate family.

*The LRA/OCD are developing policy and making arrangements for a third party to conduct post-closing compliance reviews. An action plan amendment has been prepared for board approval to address the above.*

### **SCR 21 Scalise**

*Passed & filed with SOS*

- Directs the LRA to obtain approval of Joint Budget prior to implementation of any plan or granting of any contract to recoup monies from any source. The LRA is scheduling meetings with interested Legislators as we develop policy and prepare for Joint Budget Committee.

**SCR 104 Sheppard, Duplessis, Gray & Murray**  
*Passed & filed with SOS*

- Directs the LRA not to spend certain funds for community recovery projects in New Orleans.

**HCR 190 & 191 Tucker:** LRA Action Plan Amendments passed full legislative approval allocating:

1. \$500M - Long Term Community Recovery Program to address local recovery needs.
2. \$15M – Infrastructure Program Delivery
3. \$47.5M – fund FEMA ineligibles of K-12 public school infrastructure that was damaged as a result of the hurricanes.