



House votes to end war in Iran

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Grants available to upgrade roofs this hurricane season



The Louisiana Fortify Homes Program (LFHP) is aimed at helping homeowners strengthen roofs to better withstand hurricanes and damaging winds. USA TODAY NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Being near Gulf waters, South Louisiana is at risk of storms that cause widespread damage each hurricane season.

During severe hurricanes, it's possible for thousands of residents to be displaced after homes are destroyed. In other cases, residents may find themselves without appropriate finances to fund necessary repairs.

In order to provide a solution for at-risk homes, The Louisiana Fortify Homes Program (LFHP) is aimed at helping homeowners strengthen roofs to better withstand hurricanes and damaging winds.

The LFHP grants up to \$10,000 for homeowners to upgrade roofs to meet standards set by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS).

Completed roofing projects must meet the FORTIFIED Roof Standard for grants to be issued, and funding is limited to construction costs.

The program does not permit the use of grant funds to homeowners who elect to fortify their roof without first receiving a LFHP grant, says the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI).

Grant funds are paid directly to contractors, and homeowners are responsible for all costs beyond the full grant amount and for paying fees for the evaluation process according to prices set by the evaluator.

Only primary residences that have a

homestead exemption, an insurance policy with wind coverage and flood insurance if the residence is in a special flood hazard area are eligible to participate in the program.

Homes must also be in good repair as determined by a FORTIFIED Evaluator, yet roof patching or other partial repairs of the roof are not eligible for funding under the program.

In order to receive grant funding for roof replacement, the entire roof covering must be replaced as part of the recommended improvement.

These residences are not eligible for grants, according to the LDI:

- New construction homes, condominiums and mobile homes

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'I ain't voting for that'

Cassidy won't support anti-weaponization fund; is skeptical about Pulte

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy said he is skeptical about President Trump's appointment to lead the nation's intelligence agencies, questioning his qualifications for the post.

Cassidy also condemned Trump's proposed "anti-weaponization fund," which could pay people convicted of assaulting police during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. The Department of Justice said it has paused advancing the fund in Congress.

Trump announced June 2 he has appointed Federal Housing Finance Agency director Bill Pulte as director of national intelligence despite Pulte's lack of any experience in that field.

"The little bit I've heard he doesn't seem qualified," Cassidy said in a conference call with reporters. "He doesn't have experience in intelligence (or) the

See CASSIDY, Page 3A



Republican Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy said he is skeptical about President Trump's appointment to lead the nation's intelligence agencies, questioning his qualifications for the post. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY NETWORK

LA has no pet seat belt law

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you've ever been driving with your pet in the car, they may have decided to climb in your lap for the ride.

While your pet may be small enough to comfortably fit on your lap in the driver's seat, driving with an animal in your lap can interfere with your ability to safely control the vehicle.

Because of this, eight states have enacted laws requiring pets be harnessed when riding in a vehicle in order to combat distracted driving.

Do pets have to be restrained via seatbelt or harness while riding in the car in Louisiana?

In Louisiana, there is no state law requiring that pets wear a seat belt or be contained in a crate during transport.

Previously proposed legislation would have prohibited driving with an unrestrained pet in the vehicle in Louisiana, however, the bill failed to pass.

While there may be no state law, it's possible that officers may still ticket motorists for driving with a pet in their lap if it affects their driving.

In Louisiana, penalties for distracted driving range from \$175 to \$500 in fines and potential license suspension.

Additionally, driving with pets in laps or unrestrained in the vehicle can put you, your pets and other drivers at risk. Being distracted by your unrestrained pet can result in a crash and, in the event of a crash, your pet can get more severely injured than if they'd been secured.

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In Louisiana, there is no state law requiring that pets wear a seat belt or be contained in a crate during transport. GETTY IMAGES

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