

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
RUTH JONES MCCLENDON**

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, September 27, 2007

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**Representative McClendon Named to Committee  
to Study Feasibility of Reimbursing Damages on  
Home Building and Repair Contracts**

(AUSTIN) - Wednesday, Speaker Tom Craddick (R - Midland) announced the appointment of Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon (D - San Antonio) to the Interim Committee to Study the Feasibility for Reimbursement of Builder's Damages, which will examine the creation of a fund designed to reimburse persons who have been victims of construction contractors who have taken their money without performing the work agreed upon, in violation of the Texas Property Code.

Reacting to news of the appointment, McClendon said, "Obviously, I am extremely pleased to be appointed to this Interim Study Committee. This presents a good opportunity to explore a model concept used in other states to provide a remedy for homeowners, particularly those who are vulnerable due to age or disability, who incur damages due to a building or remodeling job that is done poorly or not at all. I look forward to working with the other Committee members on this important Legislative report."

Created by House Bill 1038 (HB1038), the Committee will look into ways for potential methods of payments into the fund, procedures for managing it and methods for making claims to the fund. The Committee will also study similar funds created in other states. HB1038 revised the laws concerning the Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC), to enhance its oversight powers concerning homeowner complaints against those builders and remodeling contractors who are required to register with the TRCC.

"Representative McClendon's experience on the Appropriations Committee, and as a strong proponent of home owner's rights, will ensure that any appropriate venues chosen for funds to address grievances will be done in a fair manner," Speaker Craddick said. "I know that she will have a good working relationship with the House State Affairs Committee members and I look forward to their recommendations."

The Committee consists of eleven members, including all members of the House State Affairs Committee, as well as two additional House members. The eleventh member will be Representative Beverly Woolley (R - Houston). The Committee is scheduled to submit its recommendations to the legislature no later than September 1, 2008. The Legislature will convene again in January, 2009.

Representative McClendon has served in the Texas House of Representatives for the past 10 years, representing District 120 in San Antonio. She is chair of the House Committee on Rules and Resolutions, a member of the House Appropriations Committee and the chair of Budget and Oversight for the Pension and Investments Committee. She also serves as a member of the influential Sunset Advisory Commission.