

1 HB507
2 129302-1
3 By Representatives Buskey, McMillan, Bracy, Faust, Fincher,
4 Gaston, Ison, Baker and Shiver
5 RFD: Insurance
6 First Read: 14-APR-11

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill establishes the Strengthen Alabama
9 Homes Program to aid homeowners in retrofitting
10 insurable property to resist future loss due to
11 hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events.

12
13 A BILL
14 TO BE ENTITLED
15 AN ACT
16

17 To establish the Strengthen Alabama Homes Program to
18 aid homeowners in retrofitting insurable property to resist
19 loss due to hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events.
20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

21 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
22 as the Strengthen Alabama Homes Act.

23 Section 2. (a) There is established within the
24 Department of Insurance, the Strengthen Alabama Homes Program.

25 (b) There is established the Strengthen Alabama
26 Homes Fund within the State Treasury for the use of the
27 department to administer the program.

1 (c) This act does not create an entitlement for
2 property owners or obligate the state in any way to fund the
3 inspection or retrofitting of residential property in this
4 state. Implementation of this program is subject to annual
5 legislative appropriations, receipt of federal grants or
6 funds, or receipt of other sources of grants or funds. The
7 department shall use its best efforts to obtain grants or
8 funds from the federal government or other funding sources to
9 supplement the financial resources of the program that may be
10 provided by the state.

11 (d) Monies in the program shall be deposited in the
12 Strengthen Alabama Homes Fund. Monies shall not lapse, unless
13 otherwise specified under federal funding or a federal grant,
14 or a grant or funds from another source, or be transferred to
15 the General Fund or other state funds and shall not be
16 redistributed. Monies shall be used for the purpose of
17 assisting the program in performing all acts that relate to
18 the function and purpose of the program.

19 (e) The program shall apply for financial grants to
20 retrofit insurable property as defined in Section 27-31D-3,
21 Code of Alabama 1975, to resist loss due to hurricane or other
22 catastrophic windstorm events as prescribed in subsection (b)
23 of Section 27-31D-2, Code of Alabama 1975.

24 (f) The program may also make grants or funding
25 available to nonprofit entities for projects to retrofit an
26 insurable property to resist loss due to hurricane or other
27 catastrophic windstorm events if such grants or funding to

1 nonprofit entities are allowable under grant or funding rules,
2 requirements, guidelines, or criteria. However, a nonprofit
3 entity shall agree to administer the grants or funds as the
4 program would be required to administer grants or funds and
5 the entity shall provide documentation to the department in a
6 timely manner as requested by the department.

7 (g) The program shall create a process in which
8 mitigation contractors agree to participate and seek
9 reimbursement from the state for the grant amount to be paid.
10 All mitigation shall be based upon the securing of all
11 required local permits and applicable inspections in keeping
12 with local building codes and the Fortified for Existing Homes
13 Program. Mitigation projects are subject to random
14 reinspection of all projects.

15 (h) The department may promulgate rules and
16 eligibility requirements necessary for the proper
17 administration of this act and pursuant to any instructions or
18 requirements on grants or funds received by the program.

19 Section 3. (a) To be eligible for a grant,
20 residential property owners applying for a grant must have an
21 insurable property that has been granted a homestead exemption
22 and must be able to meet the eligibility requirements as set
23 forth by the department for each grant type.

24 (b) Grants to residential property owners must be
25 used to retrofit an insurable property as defined in Section
26 27-31D-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to resist loss due to

1 hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events as prescribed
2 in subsection (b) of Section 27-31D-2, Code of Alabama 1975.

3 Section 4. This act shall become effective on
4 January 1, 2012, following its passage and approval by the
5 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.