SB389

129302-2

By Senators Brooks, Pittman, Keahey and Bedford

RFD: Banking and Insurance

First Read: 12-APR-11
To establish the Strengthen Alabama Homes Program to aid homeowners in retrofitting insurable property to resist loss due to hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The program may also make grants or funding
available to nonprofit entities for projects to retrofit an
insurable property to resist loss due to hurricane or other
catastrophic windstorm events if such grants or funding to
nonprofit entities are allowable under grant or funding rules,
requirements, guidelines, or criteria. However, a nonprofit
entity shall agree to administer the grants or funds as the
program would be required to administer grants or funds and
the entity shall provide documentation to the department in a
timely manner as requested by the department.
(g) All mitigation shall be based upon the securing of all required local permits and applicable inspections in keeping with local building codes and the Fortified for Existing Homes Program. Mitigation projects are subject to random reinspection of all projects.

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

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

(b) Grants to residential property owners must be used to retrofit an insurable property as defined in Section 27-31D-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to resist loss due to hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events as prescribed in subsection (b) of Section 27-31D-2, Code of Alabama 1975.

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

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Banking and Insurance.............. 12-APR-11

Read for the second time and placed on the calendar........................................... 26-APR-11

Read for the third time and passed as amended .... 27-APR-11

Yeas 30
Nays 0

Patrick Harris
Secretary