

1 SB389  
2 129302-1  
3 By Senators Brooks, Pittman, Keahey and Bedford  
4 RFD: Banking and Insurance  
5 First Read: 12-APR-11

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

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

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.

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.