

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Lance Pruitt

Co-Chair, House Energy Committee

Sponsor Statement

HB 197(ENE) HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM

Non-governmental third parties are currently attempting to get themselves identified in federal legislation as the Home Energy Rating System verifying agency. They would control state policy on this issue and compete for federal funds that could be available to the states, and could come through the states. Based on the investment that Alaska has made through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) in developing its own Home Energy Rating System, it seems appropriate that Alaska should run the program, not a non-governmental third party.

HB 197 authorizes the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to act as the authorizing agency relative to approving any Home Energy Rating System (HERS) to be utilized in the state. This will enable AHFC to ensure that any HERS utilized in Alaska is appropriate for Alaska climates. In addition, AHFC would be able to verify appropriate software for national recognition. The HERS is directly related to measuring a home's ability to meet the Building Energy Efficiency Standards (BEES), which are required by state law.