

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Lance Pruitt
House Majority Leader

Sponsor Statement

CSHB 297(FIN)

"An Act recognizing the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation as the authorizing agency to approve home energy rating systems for the state; and providing for an effective date."

CSHB 297(FIN) seeks to make AHFC the authorizing agency relative to approving Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) in Alaska. The HERS is directly related to measuring a home's ability to meet the Building Energy Efficiency Standards (BEES), which are required by law.

If AHFC is established as the authorizing agency, it will ensure that Alaska's varied and extreme weather conditions are appropriately addressed prior to any HERS approval and implementation. In addition, AHFC would be able to verify appropriate software for national recognition.

In Alaska we have an unusual amount of unique, regional climate conditions. Typically rating systems from other states won't take into account these vast differences like the extreme cold of the North Slope, the dampness and moderate climate of southeast, and the windy areas of the southwest Aleutians.

Support for CSHB 297(FIN) will protect the investment that Alaska has made via AHFC in developing its own rating system, AkWarm, as well as the over \$560 million Alaska has invested in its highly successful and popular home energy rebates and weatherization programs.