

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Lance Pruitt
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Sponsor Statement

HB 297 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. The third parties would therefore control state policy on this issue. 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 297 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.