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**Senate Bill 197 Residential Building Code
Version S Sponsor Statement**

SB 197, "An Act relating to residential building codes; relating to construction contractors and residential contractor endorsements; establishing the Alaska State Building Code Council; and providing for an effective date," would provide Alaskans with more confidence that their new home is safe and well-built.

When Alaskans are buying a home or selecting a contractor to build their home it can be difficult for those without construction experience to know what to look for. In areas where there isn't a municipal residential building code, shoddy work done by a contractor can be hidden behind walls for years before creating problems. Having a statewide residential building code will ensure that homes across Alaska are built to proven safety standards with the appropriate materials.

SB 197 would require the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to adopt the 2018 International Residential Code published by the International Code Council (or later versions) through regulation as a statewide residential building code. The bill would allow AHFC to amend the code as necessary to adjust for Alaska's unique environment, allow municipalities to adopt their own residential building codes, and would exempt owner-built homes and recreational cabins from the state residential building code. SB 197 would also add to the state building code an allowance for the use of locally graded lumber produced under AS 41.17.630 in residences and create an advisory board to make recommendations to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding the adoption of the statewide building code and necessary updates.