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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 318 (Finance)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to grants for energy efficient  
7 homes."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND POLICY. (a) The legislature finds that

10 (1) high quality energy efficient building technology developed  
11 by the Alaska Craftsman Home Program would substantially reduce home energy  
12 consumption, improve the health and safety of the occupants, improve indoor  
13 air quality, reduce the contributions of dwellings to outdoor pollution,  
14 increase home durability, reduce home maintenance needs, and increase the  
15 economic stability of the home owner;

16 (2) state money now being spent to subsidize energy bills, to  
17 weatherize and repair poorly constructed homes, and to improve the health  
18 of people affected by poor indoor air quality would be reduced or eliminat-  
19 ed as existing homes are replaced by homes that are built to meet Alaska  
20 Craftsman Home Program standards;

21 (3) state money now used to finance and repair homes would be  
22 invested more wisely in homes that are built to meet the Alaska Craftsman  
23 Home Program standards;

24 (4) local economic benefits are achieved when money being spent  
25 on energy, home repair, and health are reduced because of building to meet  
26 the improved building standards of the Alaska Craftsman Home Program;

27 (5) the principal responsibility for development of housing  
28 rests with the private sector;

29 (6) research and development of energy efficient housing will

1 create new jobs, provide technology that can be exported, develop new  
2 business opportunities, and increase the stability of the state's economy.

3 (b) It is the policy of the state to encourage the building of homes  
4 that meet the energy efficient standards of the Alaska Craftsman Home  
5 Program and to assist in the education, planning, and development of this  
6 standard of building in cooperation with the building industry.

7 \* Sec. 2. AS 18.55.998(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) There is created in the Department of Community and Regional  
9 Affairs a supplemental housing development grant fund. Subject to the  
10 availability of appropriations for the purpose, the department shall  
11 make grants to regional housing authorities established under AS 18.-  
12 55.996 for the cost of on-site sewer and water facilities, road con-  
13 struction to project sites, energy efficient design features in homes,  
14 and extension of electrical distribution facilities to individual  
15 residences.

16 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.47 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 Sec. 44.47.378. ALASKA ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME FUND. (a) There  
18 is established in the department the Alaska energy efficient home fund  
19 consisting of money appropriated to it by the legislature. The com-  
20 missioner shall administer the Alaska energy efficient home fund under  
21 the provisions of this section.

22 (b) Subject to appropriation, the commissioner may grant funds  
23 from the Alaska energy efficient home fund to agencies of the state or  
24 federal government, individuals, or businesses that retrofit existing  
25 single family dwellings or build new single family dwellings that meet  
26 criteria adopted by the commissioner.

27 (c) Subject to appropriation, the commissioner may allocate  
28 funds from the Alaska energy efficient home fund to provide for imple-  
29 mentation and monitoring activities of the Alaska Craftsman Home

1 Building Program.

2 (d) Subject to appropriation, the commissioner may allocate  
3 funds from the Alaska energy efficient home fund to a homeowner for  
4 mitigation of indoor radon health hazards.

5 (e) The commissioner shall adopt guidelines and procedures for  
6 the fund after consultation with the board of directors of the Alaska  
7 Craftsman Home Program.

8 (f) In developing guidelines and procedures for the allocation  
9 of funds from the energy efficient home fund the commissioner shall  
10 take into account the financial need of the applicant as well as the  
11 educational value of the request.

12 (g) To be eligible to receive a grant under (d) of this section,  
13 the homeowner must have applied for a loan to mitigate the effects of  
14 radon from a state chartered or federally chartered lending institu-  
15 tion, and must have been rejected.