

**HB**

**197**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 197</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
197</SUBJECT><COMM>SCRA27</COMM></TARGET>

# Alaska State Legislature

Session:  
State Capitol Rm. 421  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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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. 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 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.

# LEGAL SERVICES

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STATE OF ALASKA

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State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

April 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary of CSHB 197(FIN)  
(Work Order No. 27-LS0628\B)

**TO:** Representative Lance Pruitt  
Attn: Jeremiah Campbell

**FROM:** Lisa Moritz Kirsch  
Legislative Counsel



You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

**Section 1.** Designates the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation as the authorizing agency to approve home energy rating systems used in Alaska, and includes a legislative finding that recognition of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation as Alaska's authorizing agency serves a public purpose in benefiting the people of Alaska.

**Section 2.** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2011.

LMK:plm  
11-231.plm

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### Summary of Changes from HB 197 Version A to CSHB 197(FIN) Version B

#### HB 197

#### Home Energy Rating Systems

Changed “may” to “shall on page 1 line 9. This change was made to clearly define AHFC’s scope of responsibility.

Removed “any” from page 1 line 9. There was concern that having “any” in the bill would put homebuilders, who used a system that wasn’t approved, in violation of the law.

Changed “system” to “systems” on page 1 line 10. This was done to imply that more than one system may be approved for use in the state.



**ALASKA STATE  
HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION**

March 31, 2011

Representative Pruitt  
State Capital Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re; Support of HB-197

Representative Pruitt

On behalf of the ASHBA (Alaska State Home Building Association) we write you this letter stating our support for HB-197 (Home Energy Rating System).

The ASHBA is an organization that works and operates in the private sector of the construction industry. The association currently has 700 plus members working and operating throughout the State.

We feel it is the appropriate time for the introduction and passage of HB-197. We feel this bill will assist the construction community as well as the public in establishing good energy standards for our state.

We appreciate you taking the time to sponsor this legislation and if you need help through testimony or other please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you,

Dave Owens  
President  
ASHBA

Alan Wilson  
Co-Chair  
Legislative Committee

Paul Michelsohn Jr.  
Co-Chair  
Legislative Committee



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March 28, 2011

The Honorable Neal Foster, Co-Chair  
House Special Committee on Energy  
Alaska Capitol, Room 434  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Lance Pruitt, Co-Chair  
House Special Committee on Energy  
Alaska Capitol, Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 197 (Pruitt)—Support

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Pruitt:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Special Committee on Energy to support HB 197, sponsored by Co-Chair Pruitt.

AARP supported the expansion of the home energy program authored by Senator Hoffman and carried out over the past several years by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. At that time we called the legislation "historic" for the impact it would have on the wallets of our members as well as Alaskans of all ages.

Since that time, we have heard nothing but extremely positive comments from Alaskans who are now saving significant amounts of money on their utility bills and all of us can be proud of the energy being saved by Alaskans who have had their homes audited by a rater and then complied with their recommendations.

AHFC developed a cadre of trained raters and a system that could be used statewide for accurate ratings. This is a system that works well and has been used by thousands of Alaskans in every part of our state.

HB 197 would officially recognize AHFC as our home energy rating system authorizing agency.

We know that citizens often complain about "the government." We don't know anyone who complains about AHFC and the good work they have done on weatherization and home energy savings. AHFC serves, in AARP's opinion, as an agency that has its act together. They know their mission and they know how to accomplish it.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on HB 197.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Marie Darlin*

Marie Darlin, Coordinator  
AARP Capital City Task Force  
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-3637 (voice)  
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Representative Lynn  
Representative Olson  
Representative Saddler  
Representative Peterson  
Representative Tuck  
Senator Hoffman