ENROLLED HB 835, Engrossed 2

2005 Legislature

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to wind-protection provisions of the Florida Building Code; amending ch. 2000-141, Laws of Florida; providing for removal of outdated wind-protection standards from the Florida Building Code; providing for an update of the code's wind-protection standards; providing an appropriation; providing for incorporation in the Florida Building Code of the repeal of a design option relating to internal pressure for buildings within the windborne debris region; requiring the Florida Building Commission to make recommendations to the Legislature; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 109 of chapter 2000-141, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 109. The Legislature has reviewed the Florida Building Code that was adopted by action of the Florida Building Commission on February 15, 2000, and that was noticed for rule adoption by reference in Rule 9B-3.047, F.A.C., on February 18, 2000, in the Florida Administrative Weekly on page 731. The Florida Building Commission is directed to continue the process to adopt the code, pursuant to section 120.54(3), Florida Statutes, and to incorporate the following provisions or standards for the State of Florida:

(3) For areas of the state not within the high velocity hurricane zone, the commission shall adopt, pursuant to s.

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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553.73, Florida Statutes, the most current edition of the wind protection requirements of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Standard 7, 1998 edition as implemented by the International Building Code, 2000 edition, and as modified by the commission in its February 15, 2000, adoption of the Florida Building Code for rule adoption by reference in Rule 9B-3.047, Florida Administrative Code. However, from the eastern border of Franklin County to the Florida-Alabama line, only land within 1 mile of the coast shall be subject to the windborne-debris requirements adopted by the commission. The exact location of wind speed lines shall be established by local ordinance, using recognized physical landmarks such as major roads, canals, rivers, and lake shores, wherever possible. Buildings constructed in the windborne debris region must be either designed for internal pressures that may result inside a building when a window or door is broken or a hole is created in its walls or roof by large debris, or be designed with protected openings. Except in the high velocity hurricane zone, local governments may not prohibit the option of designing buildings to resist internal pressures.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, the option for designing for internal pressure for buildings within the windborne debris region shall be repealed immediately upon adoption of standards and conditions within the International Building Code or International Residential Code prohibiting such design option. The Florida Building Commission shall initiate rulemaking to incorporate such standards and conditions prohibiting designing for internal pressure for

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buildings into the Florida Building Code when the base code is updated.

Section 3. The Legislature appropriates, for fiscal year 2005-2006 only, \$200,000 from the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund to the Department of Financial Services to be used to develop a joint program between the Florida Insurance Council and the Florida Home Builders Association to educate contractors on the benefits and options available for designing buildings for windborne debris protection and to develop a standardized affidavit to be used for verifying the insurance discounts for residential construction techniques demonstrated to reduce the amount of loss during a windstorm.

Section 4. The Florida Building Commission, in conjunction with local building officials, shall conduct a review of damage resulting from Hurricane Ivan and any other data to evaluate, and to make recommendations to the Legislature for any changes to, Florida's Building Code, specifically as it applies to the region from the eastern border of Franklin County to the Florida-Alabama line. The commission shall issue a report summarizing its findings and recommendations prior to the 2006 Regular Session.

Section 5. The Florida Building Commission shall evaluate the definition of "exposure category C" as currently defined in section 553.71(10), Florida Statutes, and make recommendations for a new definition that more accurately depicts Floridaspecific conditions prior to the 2006 Regular Session.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.