

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the My Safe Florida Home Program;
3 amending s. 215.5586, F.S.; providing that certain
4 applicants for grants under the program need not comply
5 with certain earlier eligibility requirements; providing
6 an effective date.

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

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10 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
11 215.5586, Florida Statutes, is amended, present paragraphs (b)
12 through (j) of that subsection are redesignated as paragraphs
13 (c) through (k), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is added to
14 that subsection, and present paragraphs (f) and (g) of that
15 subsection are amended, to read:

16 215.5586 My Safe Florida Home Program.--There is
17 established within the Department of Financial Services the My
18 Safe Florida Home Program. The department shall provide fiscal
19 accountability, contract management, and strategic leadership
20 for the program, consistent with this section. This section does
21 not create an entitlement for property owners or obligate the
22 state in any way to fund the inspection or retrofitting of
23 residential property in this state. Implementation of this
24 program is subject to annual legislative appropriations. It is
25 the intent of the Legislature that the My Safe Florida Home

HB 245

2008

26 Program provide inspections for at least 400,000 site-built,
27 single-family, residential properties and provide grants to at
28 least 35,000 applicants before June 30, 2009. The program shall
29 develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach
30 for hurricane damage mitigation that shall include the
31 following:

32 (2) MITIGATION GRANTS.--Financial grants shall be used to
33 encourage single-family, site-built, owner-occupied, residential
34 property owners to retrofit their properties to make them less
35 vulnerable to hurricane damage.

36 (a) To be eligible for a grant for persons who applied for
37 an ~~have obtained a completed~~ inspection on or after May 1, 2007,
38 a residential property must:

39 1. Have been granted a homestead exemption under chapter
40 196.

41 2. Be a dwelling that has ~~with~~ an insured value of
42 \$300,000 or less. Homeowners who are low-income persons, as
43 defined in s. 420.0004(10), are exempt from this requirement.

44 3. Have undergone an acceptable hurricane mitigation
45 inspection.

46 4. Be located in the "wind-borne debris region" as that
47 term is defined in s. 1609.2, International Building Code
48 (2006).

49 5. Be a home for which the building permit application for
50 initial construction was made before March 1, 2002.

51
52 An application for a grant must contain a signed or
53 electronically verified statement made under penalty of perjury
54 that the applicant has submitted only a single application and
55 must have attached documents demonstrating that the applicant
56 meets the requirements of this paragraph.

57 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (a), a
58 person who filed an application for an inspection before May 1,
59 2007, is eligible for a grant if the subject residential
60 property:

61 1. Has been granted a homestead exemption under chapter
62 196.

63 2. Is a dwelling that has an insured value of \$500,000 or
64 less.

65 3. Has undergone an acceptable wind certification and
66 hurricane mitigation inspection.

67 (g) ~~(f)~~ Grants may be used on a previously inspected
68 existing structure or on a rebuild. A rebuild is defined as a
69 site-built, single-family dwelling under construction to replace
70 a home that was destroyed or significantly damaged by a
71 hurricane and deemed unlivable by a regulatory authority. The
72 homeowner must be a low-income homeowner as defined in paragraph
73 (h) ~~(g)~~, must have had a homestead exemption for that home prior
74 to the hurricane, and must be intending to rebuild the home as
75 that homeowner's homestead.

HB 245

2008

76 (h)~~(g)~~ Low-income homeowners, as defined in s.
77 420.0004(10), who otherwise meet the requirements of paragraphs
78 (a), (d), (f), and (g) ~~(e), (e), and (f)~~ are eligible for a
79 grant of up to \$5,000 and are not required to provide a matching
80 amount to receive the grant. Additionally, for low-income
81 homeowners, grant funding may be used for repair to existing
82 structures leading to any of the mitigation improvements
83 provided in paragraph (f) ~~(e)~~, limited to 20 percent of the
84 grant value. The program may accept a certification directly
85 from a low-income homeowner that the homeowner meets the
86 requirements of s. 420.0004(10) if the homeowner provides such
87 certification in a signed or electronically verified statement
88 made under penalty of perjury.

89 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.