

By Senator Justice

16-00306A-08

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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 (c)
13 through (k), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is added to that
14 subsection, and present paragraphs (f) and (g) of that subsection
15 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 for
20 the program, consistent with this section. This section does not
21 create an entitlement for property owners or obligate the state
22 in any way to fund the inspection or retrofitting of residential
23 property in this state. Implementation of this program is subject
24 to annual legislative appropriations. It is the intent of the
25 Legislature that the My Safe Florida Home Program provide
26 inspections for at least 400,000 site-built, single-family,
27 residential properties and provide grants to at least 35,000
28 applicants before June 30, 2009. The program shall develop and
29 implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach for hurricane

16-00306A-08

2008644__

30 damage mitigation that shall include the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16-00306A-08

2008644__

59 1. Has been granted a homestead exemption under chapter
60 196.

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

63 3. Has undergone an acceptable wind certification and
64 hurricane mitigation inspection.

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

74 (h) ~~(g)~~ Low-income homeowners, as defined in s.
75 420.0004(10), who otherwise meet the requirements of paragraphs
76 (a), (d), (f), and (g) ~~(e), (e), and (f)~~ are eligible for a grant
77 of up to \$5,000 and are not required to provide a matching amount
78 to receive the grant. Additionally, for low-income homeowners,
79 grant funding may be used for repair to existing structures
80 leading to any of the mitigation improvements provided in
81 paragraph (f) ~~(e)~~, limited to 20 percent of the grant value. The
82 program may accept a certification directly from a low-income
83 homeowner that the homeowner meets the requirements of s.
84 420.0004(10) if the homeowner provides such certification in a
85 signed or electronically verified statement made under penalty of
86 perjury.

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