

By Senator Simmons

22-00649-11

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to a residential property structural
3 soundness evaluation grant program; amending s.
4 627.0629, F.S.; deleting an obsolete Citizens Property
5 Insurance Corporation residential property structural
6 soundness evaluation grant program; providing an
7 effective date.
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11 Section 1. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 627.0629,
12 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13 627.0629 Residential property insurance; rate filings.—

14 ~~(8) EVALUATION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY STRUCTURAL~~
15 ~~SOUNDNESS.—~~

16 ~~(a) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a~~
17 ~~program whereby homeowners may obtain an evaluation of the wind~~
18 ~~resistance of their homes with respect to preventing damage from~~
19 ~~hurricanes, together with a recommendation of reasonable steps~~
20 ~~that may be taken to upgrade their homes to better withstand~~
21 ~~hurricane force winds.~~

22 ~~(b) To the extent that funds are provided for this purpose~~
23 ~~in the General Appropriations Act, the Legislature hereby~~
24 ~~authorizes the establishment of a program to be administered by~~
25 ~~the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation for homeowners~~
26 ~~insured in the high-risk account.~~

27 ~~(c) The program shall provide grants to homeowners, for the~~
28 ~~purpose of providing homeowner applicants with funds to conduct~~
29 ~~an evaluation of the integrity of their homes with respect to~~

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30 ~~withstanding hurricane force winds, recommendations to retrofit~~
31 ~~the homes to better withstand damage from such winds, and the~~
32 ~~estimated cost to make the recommended retrofits.~~

33 ~~(d) The Department of Community Affairs shall establish by~~
34 ~~rule standards to govern the quality of the evaluation, the~~
35 ~~quality of the recommendations for retrofitting, the eligibility~~
36 ~~of the persons conducting the evaluation, and the selection of~~
37 ~~applicants under the program. In establishing the rule, the~~
38 ~~Department of Community Affairs shall consult with the advisory~~
39 ~~committee to minimize the possibility of fraud or abuse in the~~
40 ~~evaluation and retrofitting process, and to ensure that funds~~
41 ~~spent by homeowners acting on the recommendations achieve~~
42 ~~positive results.~~

43 ~~(e) The Citizens Property Insurance Corporation shall~~
44 ~~identify areas of this state with the greatest wind risk to~~
45 ~~residential properties and recommend annually to the Department~~
46 ~~of Community Affairs priority target areas for such evaluations~~
47 ~~and inclusion with the associated residential construction~~
48 ~~mitigation program.~~

49 ~~(8)(9)~~ A property insurance rate filing that includes any
50 adjustments related to premiums paid to the Florida Hurricane
51 Catastrophe Fund must include a complete calculation of the
52 insurer's catastrophe load, and the information in the filing
53 may not be limited solely to recovery of moneys paid to the
54 fund.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.