

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	_____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	_____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	_____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Appropriations Committee
 2 Representative Hunschofsky offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 415-577 and insert:

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 4
 5
 6 inspectors to perform inspections for eligible homeowners ~~owners~~
 7 ~~of site-built, single-family, residential properties~~ and grants
 8 to eligible applicants ~~as funding allows~~. The department shall
 9 implement the program in such a manner that the total amount of
 10 funding requested by accepted applications, whether for
 11 inspections, grants, or other services or assistance, does not
 12 exceed the total amount of available funds. If, after
 13 applications are processed and approved, funds remain available,
 14 the department may accept applications up to the available
 15 amount. The program shall develop and implement a comprehensive

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16 and coordinated approach for hurricane damage mitigation that
17 may include the following:

18 (1) HURRICANE MITIGATION INSPECTIONS.—

19 (a) Licensed inspectors are to provide home inspections of
20 site-built, single-family, residential properties for which a
21 homestead exemption has been granted, to determine what
22 mitigation measures are needed, what insurance premium discounts
23 may be available, and what improvements to existing residential
24 properties are needed to reduce the property's vulnerability to
25 hurricane damage. An inspector may also inspect a condominium
26 unit, condominium association property, or a townhouse as
27 defined in s. 481.203 ~~to determine if opening protection~~
28 ~~mitigation as listed in paragraph (2) (e) would provide~~
29 ~~improvements to mitigate hurricane damage.~~

30 (b) The Department of Financial Services shall contract
31 with wind certification entities to provide hurricane mitigation
32 inspections. The inspections provided to homeowners, including
33 condominium associations, at a minimum, must include:

34 1. A home inspection and report that summarizes the
35 results and identifies recommended improvements a homeowner may
36 take to mitigate hurricane damage.

37 2. A range of cost estimates regarding the recommended
38 mitigation improvements.

39 3. Information regarding estimated premium discounts,
40 correlated to the current mitigation features and the

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41 recommended mitigation improvements identified by the
42 inspection.

43 (c) To qualify for selection by the department as a wind
44 certification entity to provide hurricane mitigation
45 inspections, the entity must, at a minimum, meet the following
46 requirements:

47 1. Use hurricane mitigation inspectors who are licensed or
48 certified as:

49 a. A building inspector under s. 468.607;

50 b. A general, building, or residential contractor under s.
51 489.111;

52 c. A professional engineer under s. 471.015;

53 d. A professional architect under s. 481.213; or

54 e. A home inspector under s. 468.8314 and who have
55 completed at least 3 hours of hurricane mitigation training
56 approved by the Construction Industry Licensing Board, which
57 training must include hurricane mitigation techniques,
58 compliance with the uniform mitigation verification form, and
59 completion of a proficiency exam.

60 2. Use hurricane mitigation inspectors who also have
61 undergone drug testing and a background screening. The
62 department may conduct criminal record checks of inspectors used
63 by wind certification entities. Inspectors must submit a set of
64 fingerprints to the department for state and national criminal
65 history checks and must pay the fingerprint processing fee set

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66 | forth in s. 624.501. The fingerprints must be sent by the
67 | department to the Department of Law Enforcement and forwarded to
68 | the Federal Bureau of Investigation for processing. The results
69 | must be returned to the department for screening. The
70 | fingerprints must be taken by a law enforcement agency,
71 | designated examination center, or other department-approved
72 | entity.

73 | 3. Provide a quality assurance program including a
74 | reinspection component.

75 | (d) An application for an inspection must contain a signed
76 | or electronically verified statement made under penalty of
77 | perjury that the applicant has submitted only a single
78 | application for that home.

79 | (e) A condominium association or the owner of a site-
80 | built, single-family, residential property, condominium unit, or
81 | townhouse as defined in s. 481.203, for which a homestead
82 | exemption has been granted, may apply for and receive an
83 | inspection without also applying for a grant pursuant to
84 | subsection (2) and without meeting the requirements of paragraph
85 | (2) (a). For mitigation efforts involving portions of a
86 | condominium building to be maintained by the association, an
87 | inspection may be requested by the association.

88 | (2) MITIGATION GRANTS.—Financial grants shall be used to
89 | encourage a condominium association or the owner of a single-
90 | family, site-built, owner-occupied, residential property,

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91 condominium, or townhouse, as that term is defined in s. 481.203
92 ~~owners~~ to retrofit their properties to make them less vulnerable
93 to hurricane damage.

94 (a) For a homeowner to be eligible for a grant, the
95 following criteria must be met:

96 1. The homeowner must have been granted a homestead
97 exemption on the home under chapter 196.

98 2. The home must be a dwelling with an insured value of
99 \$700,000 or less. Homeowners who are low-income persons, as
100 defined in s. 420.0004(11), are exempt from this requirement.

101 3. The home must undergo an acceptable hurricane
102 mitigation inspection as provided in subsection (1).

103 4. The building permit application for initial
104 construction of the home must have been made before January 1,
105 2008.

106 5. The homeowner must agree to make his or her home
107 available for inspection once a mitigation project is completed.

108
109 An application for a grant must contain a signed or
110 electronically verified statement made under penalty of perjury
111 that the applicant has submitted only a single application and
112 must have attached documents demonstrating the applicant meets
113 the requirements of this paragraph.

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115 (b) All grants must be matched on the basis of \$1 provided
116 by the applicant for \$2 provided by the state up to a maximum
117 state contribution toward the actual cost of the mitigation
118 project of:

119 1. For a site-built, single-family, residential property
120 or townhouse as defined in s. 481.203, \$10,000 ~~toward the actual~~
121 ~~cost of the mitigation project.~~

122 2. For property to be maintained by a condominium
123 association, the lesser of \$2,500 per homestead condominium unit
124 within the condominium or \$500,000.

125 3. For a condominium unit, \$5,000.

126 (c) The program shall create a process in which
127 contractors agree to participate and homeowners select from a
128 list of participating contractors. All mitigation must be based
129 upon the securing of all required local permits and inspections
130 and must be performed by properly licensed contractors.
131 Hurricane mitigation inspectors qualifying for the program may
132 also participate as mitigation contractors as long as the
133 inspectors meet the department's qualifications and
134 certification requirements for mitigation contractors.

135 (d) Matching fund grants shall also be made available to
136 local governments and nonprofit entities for projects that will
137 reduce hurricane damage to property to be maintained by a
138 condominium association or single-family, site-built, owner-
139 occupied, residential property, a condominium unit, or a

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140 townhouse as defined in s. 481.203. The department shall
141 liberally construe those requirements in favor of availing the
142 state of the opportunity to leverage funding for the My Safe
143 Florida Home Program with other sources of funding.

144 (e) When recommended by a hurricane mitigation inspection,
145 grants for eligible homes may be used for the following
146 improvements:

- 147 1. Opening protection.
- 148 2. Exterior doors, including garage doors.
- 149 3. Reinforcing roof-to-wall connections.
- 150 4. Improving the strength of roof-deck attachments.
- 151 5. Secondary water barrier for roof.

152 ~~(f) When recommended by a hurricane mitigation inspection,~~
153 ~~grants for townhouses, as defined in s. 481.203, may only be~~
154 ~~used for opening protection.~~

155
156 The department may require that improvements be made to all
157 openings, including exterior doors and garage doors, as a
158 condition of reimbursing a homeowner approved for a grant. The
159 department may adopt, by rule, the maximum grant allowances for
160 any improvement allowable under paragraph (e) or this paragraph.

161 (f)~~(g)~~ Grants may be used on a previously inspected
162 existing structure or on a rebuild. A rebuild is defined as a
163 site-built, single-family dwelling under construction to replace
164 a home that was destroyed or significantly damaged by a

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165 hurricane and deemed unlivable by a regulatory authority. The
166 homeowner must be a low-income homeowner as defined in paragraph
167 ~~(g)-(h)~~, must have had a homestead exemption for that home before
168 the hurricane, and must be intending to rebuild the home as that
169 homeowner's homestead.

170 ~~(g)-(h)~~ Low-income homeowners, as defined in s.
171 420.0004(11), who otherwise meet the requirements of paragraphs
172 (a), (c), (e), and ~~(f)~~ ~~(g)~~ are eligible for a grant of up to
173 \$10,000 and are not required to provide a matching amount to
174 receive the grant. The program may accept a certification
175 directly from a low-income homeowner that the homeowner meets
176 the requirements of s. 420.0004(11) if the homeowner provides
177 such certification in a signed or electronically verified
178 statement made under penalty of perjury.

179 (i) The department shall develop a process that ensures
180 the most efficient means to collect and verify grant
181 applications to determine eligibility and may direct hurricane
182 mitigation inspectors to collect and verify grant application
183 information or use the Internet or other electronic means to
184 collect information and determine eligibility.

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186 -----

187 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

188 Remove line 46 and insert:

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189 | intent; expanding the My Safe Florida Home Program to
190 | include certain condominium units and condominium
191 | associations; specifying the maximum grant available
192 | to specified parties; expanding the types of projects
193 | that may receive matching fund grants; deleting a
194 | provision limiting grants for a townhome to specific
195 | types of mitigation; specifying a requirement for the
196 | Department of