

**FLORIDA SENATE  
State Senator Ken Pruitt  
District 28**



**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Andrew Treadwell  
(772) 344-1140

**Citizens Property Insurance Reform Moves Toward Full Senate Vote**

Tallahassee, FL – The Senate Committee on Ways & Means passed legislation (Senate Bill 1980) today to address the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation crisis in Florida. Much of the reform within the Citizens legislation centers on rates for coverage, assessment reduction, and depopulation, or lowering the quantity of homeowners dependent on the state's insurer of "last resort."

Three amendments co-sponsored by State Senator Ken Pruitt (R-Port St. Lucie) and subsequently added to Senate Bill 1980, included provisions:

- Requiring the Department of Community Affairs to establish the Home Retrofit Hardening Program. This initiative will earmark \$50 million to fund improvements to older homes, making them less vulnerable to hurricane damage.
- Earmarking \$5.5 million to provide wind certification and hurricane mitigation inspections to homeowners at no cost.
- And most significantly, allocating \$750 million to reduce the amount of assessment property owners must pay to Citizens Property Insurance for 2005.

"This infusion of state dollars will dramatically reduce the amount of assessment homeowners must pay to Citizens Property Insurance," said Senator Pruitt. "This is a major first step in providing the relief property owners deserve and I'm hopeful as this measure moves forward that more funding will be provided to lower the assessments further."

Other provisions in the measure include adding further oversight and internal controls with Citizens Insurance and enhancing the standards of conduct for Citizens' board of governors and senior management.

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