

**SENATE BILL NO. 87**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR BJORKMAN

Introduced: 3/1/23

Referred: Resources, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to a lumber grading training program and lumber grading certificates;**  
2 **relating to use of lumber graded and certified by a person holding a lumber grading**  
3 **training program certificate; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** AS 41.17 is amended by adding new sections to read:

6 **Article 6A. Lumber Grading.**

7 **Sec. 41.17.610. Lumber grading training program.** (a) The division shall  
8 establish a lumber grading training program to train mill operators to grade lumber.

9 (b) The training program must be offered at least once each year.

10 (c) The division shall prescribe the

11 (1) content of the training program;

12 (2) qualifications for instructors; and

13 (3) requirements for completing the training program, including  
14 requirements for issuing and renewing lumber grading certificates.

1           **Sec. 41.17.620. Lumber grading certificates.** (a) The division shall issue a  
2 lumber grading certificate to an individual who successfully completes the lumber  
3 grading training program established under AS 41.17.610. A certificate expires five  
4 years after the date of issuance. A certificate must include the date of issuance and  
5 expiration.

6           (b) The division may issue an initial lumber grading certificate to an  
7 individual who has not completed the lumber grading training program if the  
8 individual provides proof to the division that the individual

9                   (1) holds a current certification from a lumber grading agency  
10 accredited by the American Lumber Standard Committee, Incorporated; or

11                   (2) has a bachelor's or postgraduate degree in forest products or wood  
12 science and technology, or an equivalent degree as determined by the division.

13           (c) An individual holding a certificate, including an individual who received  
14 an initial certificate under (b) of this section, must successfully complete the lumber  
15 grading training program to renew the individual's lumber grading certificate.

16           (d) The division may revoke a lumber grading certificate for good cause, after  
17 giving the certificate holder notice of the reason for revocation and an opportunity for  
18 hearing. A certificate holder may appeal a revocation in writing to the state forester  
19 within 10 days after revocation.

20           **Sec. 41.17.630. Use of graded and certified lumber.** (a) Load-bearing  
21 dimensional lumber graded and certified in accordance with this section may be used  
22 in one-, two-, and three-family dwellings in this state.

23           (b) Load-bearing dimensional lumber graded and certified under this section  
24 must be milled in a manner that meets or exceeds the requirements of the applicable  
25 building code adopted for one-, two-, and three-family dwellings for the location  
26 where the lumber will be used or, if a building code for that location has not been  
27 adopted, the building code most broadly used in the state, as determined by the  
28 division.

29           (c) An individual holding a lumber grading certificate issued under  
30 AS 41.17.620 may grade load-bearing dimensional lumber that the individual holding  
31 the lumber grading certificate mills. The individual shall provide written certification

1 that the lumber meets the requirements of (b) of this section. The certification must be  
2 (1) on a form prescribed by the division;  
3 (2) accompanied by a copy of the individual's lumber grading  
4 certificate.

5 (d) Load-bearing dimensional lumber graded and certified under this section  
6 may be used in a dwelling only if the individual holding the lumber grading certificate  
7 sells the lumber directly to a building contractor, the owner of the dwelling, or a  
8 person acting on behalf of the owner of the dwelling.

9 (e) Upon receiving written certification required by (c) of this section, an  
10 inspector authorized to review plans or inspect the dwelling under applicable local  
11 building codes may authorize the use of the lumber, reject the use of the lumber, or  
12 authorize the use of the lumber subject to more restrictive construction requirements,  
13 including requirements as to size, spacing, length of spans, and design.

14 \* **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).