

Native Housing Bill Endorsed By Agency

WASHINGTON—Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett's native housing bill (S. 1915) has been endorsed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In a report to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, the department, which would make housing grants to the state, recommended immediate enactment of the bill.

The department said that "the especially difficult economic and physical conditions in Alaska" justified a special program for native villages.

The report stated that minimum size and construction standards required for existing federally-aided housing projects were not feasible in many parts of Alaska.

In addition, establishment of self-help programs for Alaska natives was complicated by the fact that the state's short construction

period coincided with the only period in which natives could pursue fishing and other money-making enterprises.

The department endorsed the bill's financing provision authorizing federal grants up to an overall limit of 75 per cent of costs.