

Assembly Bill No. 532

CHAPTER 598

An act to amend Section 14684.1 of the Government Code, relating to state property.

[Approved by Governor October 13, 2007. Filed with Secretary of State October 13, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 532, Wolk. State property: solar energy.

Existing law requires the Department of General Services, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to ensure that solar energy equipment is installed, no later than January 1, 2007, on all state buildings and state parking facilities, where feasible.

This bill would require the department to ensure that solar energy equipment is installed no later than January 1, 2009, on these buildings and facilities, as well as state-owned swimming pools that are heated with fossil fuels or electricity, where feasible.

Existing law requires that solar energy equipment be installed, where feasible, as part of the construction of all state buildings and state parking facilities for which construction commences on or after January 1, 2003.

This bill would change this requirement to apply to construction commencing on or after January 1, 2008.

Existing law provides that it is feasible to install solar equipment if adequate space on or adjacent to a building is available, if the solar-energy equipment is cost-effective, and if funding is available.

This bill would specify that funding for purposes of determining if installation is feasible may be funding from the state or another source.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14684.1 of the Government Code is amended to read:

14684.1. (a) The department, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, shall ensure that solar energy equipment is installed, no later than January 1, 2009, on all state buildings, state parking facilities, and state-owned swimming pools that are heated with fossil fuels or electricity, where feasible. The department shall establish a schedule designating when solar energy equipment will be installed on each building and facility, with priority given to buildings and facilities where installation is most feasible.

(b) Solar energy equipment shall be installed, where feasible, as part of the construction of all state buildings and state parking facilities for which construction commences on or after January 1, 2008.

(c) For purposes of this section, it is feasible to install solar energy equipment if adequate space on or adjacent to a building is available, if the solar energy equipment is cost-effective, and if funding is available from the state or another source.

(d) Any solar energy equipment installed pursuant to this section shall meet applicable standards and requirements imposed by state and local permitting authorities, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Certification by the Solar Rating Certification Corporation, which is a nonprofit third party supported by the Department of Energy, or any other nationally recognized certification agency.

(2) All applicable safety and performance standards established by the National Electrical Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and accredited testing laboratories, such as the Underwriters Laboratories.

(3) Where applicable, the regulations adopted by the Public Utilities Commission regarding safety and reliability.

(e) This section does not exempt the state from the payment of any applicable fee or requirement imposed by the Public Utilities Commission.

(f) The department may adopt regulations for the purposes of this section as emergency regulations in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1. For purposes of that chapter, including, but not limited to, Section 11349.6, the adoption of the regulations shall be considered by the Office of Administrative Law to be necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare. Notwithstanding the 120-day limit specified in subdivision (e) of Section 11346.1, the regulations shall be repealed 180 days after their effective date, unless the department complies with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 11346.1.

(g) Any solar energy equipment installed pursuant to this section shall be subject to the provisions of the California Solar Rights Act of 1978 (Chapter 1154 of the Statutes of 1978), as amended.

(h) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Cost-effective” means that the present value of the savings generated over the life of the solar energy system, including consideration of the value of the energy produced during peak and off-peak demand periods and the value of a reliable energy supply not subject to price volatility, shall exceed the present value cost of the solar energy equipment by not less than 10 percent. The present value cost of the solar energy equipment does not include the cost of unrelated building components. The department, in making the present value assessment, shall obtain interest rates, discount rates, and consumer price index figures from the Treasurer, and shall take

into consideration air emission reduction benefits and the value of stable energy costs.

(2) “Local publicly owned electric utility” means a local publicly owned electric utility as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 9604 of the Public Utilities Code.

(3) “Solar energy equipment” means equipment whose primary purpose is to provide for the collection, conversion, storage, or control of solar energy for the purpose of heat production, electricity production, or simultaneous heat and electricity production.