

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2008

SENATE BILL

No. 1512

Introduced by Senator Wiggins

February 21, 2008

~~An act to amend Section 768 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Public Utilities Commission. An act to amend Section 25782 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1512, as amended, Wiggins. ~~Public Utilities Commission: general authority. Renewable energy resources: California Solar Initiative.~~

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities ~~and can establish its own procedures, subject to statutory limitations or directions and constitutional requirements of due process. Existing law authorizes the commission, after a hearing, to require every public utility to construct, maintain, and operate utility facilities in a manner so as to promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, customers, and the public, including electrical corporations. In a decision, the commission adopted the California Solar Initiative to provide incentives to customer-side photovoltaics and solar thermal electric projects under one megawatt. Existing law requires the commission, in implementing the California Solar Initiative, as defined, to authorize the award of monetary incentives for up to the first megawatt of alternating current generated by a solar energy system, as defined, that meets eligibility criteria established by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission). The eligibility requirements established by the Energy Commission include requirements that the solar energy system is intended primarily to offset~~

part or all of the consumer's own electricity demand and be located on the same premises of the end-use consumer where the consumer's own electricity demand is located.

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions of law~~ *instead require that the eligibility requirements established by the Energy Commission include requirements that the solar energy system is intended primarily to offset part or all of the consumer's own electricity demand and be located on, and is used to offset the consumer's own demand for electricity on, contiguous property owned or leased by the consumer.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 25782 of the Public Resources Code is
2 amended to read:

3 25782. (a) The commission shall, by January 1, 2008, in
4 consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, local publicly
5 owned electric utilities, and interested members of the public,
6 establish eligibility criteria for solar energy systems receiving
7 ratepayer funded incentives that include all of the following:

8 (1) Design, installation, and electrical output standards or
9 incentives.

10 (2) The solar energy system is intended primarily to offset part
11 or all of the consumer's own electricity demand *on contiguous*
12 *property owned or leased by the consumer.*

13 (3) All components in the solar energy system are new and
14 unused, and have not previously been placed in service in any
15 other location or for any other application.

16 (4) The solar energy system has a warranty of not less than 10
17 years to protect against defects and undue degradation of electrical
18 generation output.

19 (5) ~~The solar energy system is located on the same premises of~~
20 ~~the end-use consumer where the consumer's own electricity~~
21 ~~demand is located, and is used to offset the consumer's own~~
22 ~~demand for electricity on, contiguous property owned or leased~~
23 ~~by the consumer.~~

24 (6) The solar energy system is connected to the electrical
25 corporation's electrical distribution system within the state.

1 (7) The solar energy system has meters or other devices in place
2 to monitor and measure the system’s performance and the quantity
3 of electricity generated by the system.

4 (8) The solar energy system is installed in conformance with
5 the manufacturer’s specifications and in compliance with all
6 applicable electrical and building code standards.

7 (b) The commission shall establish conditions on ratepayer
8 funded incentives that require all of the following:

9 (1) Appropriate siting and high quality installation of the solar
10 energy system by developing installation guidelines that maximize
11 the performance of the system and prevent qualified systems from
12 being inefficiently or inappropriately installed. The conditions
13 established by the commission shall not impact housing designs
14 or densities presently authorized by a city, county, or city and
15 county. The goal of this paragraph is to achieve efficient
16 installation of solar energy systems to promote the greatest energy
17 production per ratepayer dollar.

18 (2) Optimal solar energy system performance during periods of
19 peak electricity demand.

20 (3) Appropriate energy efficiency improvements in the new or
21 existing home or commercial structure where the solar energy
22 system is installed.

23 (c) The commission shall set rating standards for equipment,
24 components, and systems to assure reasonable performance and
25 shall develop standards that provide for compliance with the
26 minimum ratings.

27 (d) Upon establishment of eligibility criteria pursuant to
28 subdivision (a), no ratepayer funded incentives shall be made for
29 a solar energy system that does not meet the eligibility criteria.

30 ~~SECTION 1. Section 768 of the Public Utilities Code is~~
31 ~~amended to read:~~

32 ~~768. (a) The commission may do all of the following:~~

33 ~~(1) After a hearing, require every public utility to construct,~~
34 ~~maintain, and operate its line, plant, system, equipment, apparatus,~~
35 ~~tracks, and premises in a manner so as to promote and safeguard~~
36 ~~the health and safety of its employees, passengers, customers, and~~
37 ~~the public.~~

38 ~~(2) Prescribe, among other things, the installation, use,~~
39 ~~maintenance, and operation of appropriate safety or other devices~~
40 ~~or appliances, including interlocking and other protective devices~~

1 at grade crossings or junctions and block or other systems of
2 signaling.

3 (3) Establish uniform or other standards of construction and
4 equipment, and require the performance of any other act which
5 the health or safety of its employees, passengers, customers, or
6 the public may demand.

7 (b) The Department of the California Highway Patrol shall have
8 the primary responsibility for the regulation of the safety of
9 operation of passenger stage corporations. The commission shall
10 cooperate with the Department of the California Highway Patrol
11 to ensure safe operation of these carriers.