

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1160

Introduced by Assembly Member Hill

February 18, 2011

An act relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1160, as introduced, Hill. Energy: renewable energy.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission adopted the California Solar Initiative program that provides ratepayer funded incentives for eligible solar energy systems.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would create a performance-based incentive program that rewards California-based solar companies producing specific levels of renewable energy.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The State of California is a world leader in efforts to reduce
- 4 global warming and greenhouse gas emissions; increase renewable
- 5 energy production; promote energy efficiency, energy conservation,
- 6 clean air, and emission controls; expend the use of low-carbon,
- 7 alternative fuels; and promote and commercialize new technologies
- 8 and industries.

1 (b) The California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program
2 (Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Chapter 2.3 of
3 Part 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code) requires
4 California’s retail sellers of electricity to serve 20 percent of their
5 load with renewable energy by 2010.

6 (c) California leads the nation with 76,442 solar projects creating
7 776 megawatts of electricity.

8 (d) California’s high standards and ambitious goals have resulted
9 in California leading the nation in renewable energy innovation,
10 receiving more investment funding in clean technology than
11 anywhere else in the United States, and accounting for 44 percent
12 of all patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark
13 Office in solar technologies.

14 (e) Producing electricity from renewable resources provides
15 multiple and significant benefits to California’s environment and
16 economy, including improving local air quality and reducing global
17 warming pollution, diversifying energy supply, improving energy
18 security, enhancing economic development, and creating jobs.

19 (f) California has the best renewable energy resource areas in
20 the world, providing immense potential for clean, valuable
21 electricity generation in the state, and the development of these
22 resources should be rewarded.

23 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
24 that would create a performance-based incentive program that
25 rewards California-based solar companies that produce specific
26 levels of renewable energy on an annual basis.