

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2339**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Williams and V. Manuel Pérez**

February 24, 2012

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An act to add Section 740.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2339, as amended, Williams. Energy: geothermal heat pump.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and gas corporations, as defined. Existing law requires the PUC, in cooperation with specified entities, to evaluate and implement policies to promote the development of specified technologies.

This bill would require the PUC, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, State Air Resources Board, electrical corporations, and the geothermal heat pump and distributed solar thermal heating and cooling industries to evaluate policies ~~and develop sufficient infrastructure~~ sufficient to overcome barriers to the widespread deployment and use of geothermal and solar heating and cooling technologies. The bill would require the PUC, by July 1, 2013, to adopt rules addressing specified issues regarding geothermal and solar heating and cooling technologies.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 740.5 is added to the Public Utilities  
2 Code, to read:

3 740.5. (a) The commission, in consultation with the State  
4 Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission,  
5 State Air Resources Board, electrical corporations, and the  
6 geothermal heat pump and distributed solar thermal heating and  
7 cooling industries, shall evaluate policies ~~to develop an~~  
8 ~~infrastructure~~ sufficient to overcome barriers to the widespread  
9 deployment and use of geothermal and solar heating and cooling  
10 technologies.

11 (b) By July 1, 2013, the commission shall adopt rules addressing  
12 all of the following:

13 (1) The technological advances that are needed to ensure the  
14 consideration of geothermal heat pumps and solar thermal heating  
15 and cooling in state policy and what role the state should take to  
16 support the development of these technologies.

17 (2) The benefits *and costs* to ratepayers specific to safer, more  
18 reliable, or less costly gas or electrical service and through greater  
19 energy efficiency, reduction of health and environmental impacts  
20 from air pollution, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions  
21 related to electricity and natural gas production and use, through  
22 the use of geothermal heat pump and solar thermal heating and  
23 cooling technologies.

24 (3) The existing statutory and permit requirements that will  
25 impact the widespread use of geothermal heat pumps and solar  
26 thermal heating and cooling technologies and any recommended  
27 changes to existing legal impediments to the widespread use of  
28 geothermal heat pumps and solar thermal heating and cooling  
29 technologies.

30 (4) The impact of widespread use of the geothermal heat pump  
31 and solar thermal heating and cooling technologies on achieving  
32 the state’s goals pursuant to the California Global Warming  
33 Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section  
34 38500) of the Health and Safety Code) and the renewables portfolio  
35 standard program pursuant to Section 399.12.

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