

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2339

Introduced by Assembly Members Williams and V. Manuel Pérez

February 24, 2012

~~An act to add Section 740.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy. An act to add Section 25228 to the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

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

~~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.~~

The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) and requires the Energy Commission to, among other things, serve as a central repository within the state government for the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of data and information on all forms of energy supply, demand, conservation, public safety, research, and related subjects.

~~This bill would require the PUC, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, by July 1, 2013, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, State Air~~

~~Resources Board, electrical corporations, and the geothermal heat pump and distributed solar thermal heating and cooling industries and other stakeholders, to evaluate policies sufficient to overcome barriers to the widespread deployment and use of geothermal and solar heating and cooling heat pump and geothermal ground loop 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 25228 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:
3 25228. On or before July 1, 2013, the commission, in
4 consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, State Air
5 Resources Board, and other stakeholders, shall evaluate policies
6 to overcome barriers to the widespread deployment and use of
7 geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies.
8 In evaluating these polices, the commission shall consider all of
9 the following:

10 (a) The benefits and costs to ratepayers specific to safer, more
11 reliable, or less costly gas or electrical service and through greater
12 energy efficiency, reduction of health and environmental impacts
13 from air pollution, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
14 related to electricity and natural gas production and use, through
15 the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop
16 technologies.

17 (b) The existing statutory and permit requirements that impact
18 the widespread use of geothermal heat pumps and geothermal
19 ground loop technologies and any other existing legal impediments
20 to the widespread use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal
21 ground loop technologies.

22 (c) The impact of widespread use of the geothermal heat pump
23 and geothermal ground loop technologies on achieving the state’s
24 goals pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act
25 of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the
26 Health and Safety Code) and achieving the state’s energy efficiency
27 goals.

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 sufficient to overcome~~
8 ~~barriers to the widespread deployment and use of geothermal and~~
9 ~~solar heating and cooling technologies.~~

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

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

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

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

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