

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2012

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. 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 policies, 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.