

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 189

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

January 28, 2013

An act to amend Section 2851.1 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 189, as introduced, Buchanan. Energy: solar energy systems: funding.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. Decisions of the PUC adopted the California Solar Initiative. Existing law requires the commission, before collecting additional ratepayer funds to fund certain program shortfalls, to first allocate interest accumulated from customer collections and, for the remainder of the shortfall, to increase collections from customers of the state's 3 largest electrical corporations for specified programs.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to the latter provision.

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. Section 2851.1 of the Public Utilities Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 2851.1. (a) As used in this ~~section, "discount rate"~~ *section*
- 4 *"discount rate"* means a financial mechanism that provides a given

1 amount of interest as an offset to the loss of the time value of
2 money on solar projects that receive performance-based incentives
3 under Section 2851.

4 (b) Before collecting additional ratepayer funds to fund program
5 shortfalls identified for incentive step levels 8, 9, and 10 for
6 nonresidential solar photovoltaic systems, the commission shall
7 first allocate interest accumulated from customer collections and,
8 for the remainder of the shortfall, increase collections from
9 customers of San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern
10 California Edison Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company
11 for *the* programs described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of
12 Section 2851.

13 (c) The discount rate shall be set at 4 percent, unless the
14 commission determines the rate should be reduced.