

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 415**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Garcia**

February 15, 2013

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An act to amend Section 2864 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to solar energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 415, as amended, Garcia. Solar energy: water heating.

The Solar Water Heating and Efficiency Act of 2007 requires the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, to establish eligibility criteria for solar water heating systems receiving gas customer funded incentives under the act. The act requires the criteria to include eligibility requirements for residential solar water heating systems or solar collectors used in systems for multifamily residential, commercial, government, nonprofit, educational, or industrial water heating systems, as specified.

This bill would revise those eligibility requirements to require the solar water heating systems or solar collectors be certified by accredited listing agencies in accordance with ~~specified standards~~, *standards adopted by the commission*, and would specify that the commission may adopt consensus solar standards applicable to products or systems as developed by accredited standards developers.

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 2864 of the Public Utilities Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 2864. (a) The commission, in consultation with the Energy  
4 Commission and interested members of the public, shall establish  
5 eligibility criteria for solar water heating systems receiving gas  
6 customer funded incentives pursuant to this article. The criteria  
7 should specify and include all of the following:  
8 (1) Design, installation, and energy output or displacement  
9 standards. To be eligible for rebate funding, a residential solar  
10 water heating system shall be certified by an accredited listing  
11 agency in accordance with ~~SRCC Standard 300 or with an~~  
12 ~~equivalent American National Standard.~~ *standards adopted by the*  
13 *commission.* Solar collectors used in systems for multifamily  
14 residential, commercial, government, nonprofit, educational, or  
15 industrial water heating shall be certified by an accredited listing  
16 agency in accordance with ~~SRCC Standard 100, SRCC Standard~~  
17 ~~150, SRCC Standard 600, or with ISO 9806, ASHRAE 93, or~~  
18 ~~equivalent.~~ *standards adopted by the commission.* Energy output  
19 of collectors and systems shall be determined in accordance with  
20 procedures set forth by the listing agency, and shall be based on  
21 testing results from accredited testing laboratories.  
22 (2) Require that solar water heating system components are new  
23 and unused, and have not previously been placed in service in any  
24 other location or for any other application.  
25 (3) Require that solar water heating collectors have a warranty  
26 of not less than 10 years to protect against defects and undue  
27 degradation.  
28 (4) Require that solar water heating systems are in buildings or  
29 facilities connected to a natural gas utility’s distribution system  
30 within the state.  
31 (5) Require that solar water heating systems have meters or  
32 other kWh<sub>th</sub> measuring devices in place to monitor and measure  
33 the system’s performance and the quantity of energy generated or  
34 displaced by the system. The criteria shall require meters for  
35 systems with a capacity for displacing over 30 kW<sub>th</sub>. The criteria

1 may require meters for systems with a capacity of 30 kW<sub>th</sub> or  
2 smaller.

3 (6) Require that solar water heating systems are installed in  
4 conformity with the manufacturer's specifications and all  
5 applicable codes and standards.

6 (b) Gas customer funded incentives shall not be made for a solar  
7 water heating system that does not meet the eligibility criteria.

8 (c) The commission may adopt consensus solar standards  
9 applicable to products or systems as developed by accredited  
10 standards developers.

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