

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2597

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting
(Principal coauthor: Senator Pavley)

February 21, 2014

An act to amend Sections 26052, 26055, 26060, 26061, 26062, and 26063 of the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2597, as amended, Ting. Energy: PACE program.

Existing law authorizes a public agency and a property owner to enter into voluntary contractual assessments to finance the installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or energy or water efficiency improvements that are permanently affixed on real property (PACE financing program).

Existing law requires the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority to establish a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Reserve program to assist local jurisdictions in financing, among other things, the installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources or energy or water efficiency improvements on residential projects. Existing law requires the authority, in considering the eligibility of a public agency's PACE financing program for assistance under the PACE Reserve program, to consider whether the PACE program provides a loan that is less than 10% of the value of the property.

This bill would authorize the PACE program to provide ~~an assessment~~ *financial assistance* that is less than 15% of the value of the ~~property~~ *property, for up to the first \$700,000, and less than 10% of the remaining value of the property above \$700,000.*

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. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*

3 (a) *Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs*
4 *are voluntary contractual assessment or voluntary special tax*
5 *programs that finance the installation of distributed generation*
6 *renewable energy sources, electric vehicle charging infrastructure,*
7 *or energy or water efficiency improvements.*

8 (b) *The PACE risk mitigation program is intended to provide*
9 *an additional safeguard for both existing and new residential*
10 *PACE financing programs to expand in California.*

11 (c) *The PACE risk mitigation program is intended to remove*
12 *any additional risk to the first mortgage lender and federal*
13 *mortgage enterprises, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac,*
14 *resulting from the existence of a PACE assessment on a property*
15 *in foreclosure or forced into sale for unpaid taxes.*

16 ~~SECTION 1.~~

17 SEC. 2. Section 26052 of the Public Resources Code is
18 amended to read:

19 26052. “Applicant” means, for the purposes of Article 2
20 (commencing with Section 26060), a public agency as defined in
21 paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 5898.20 of the Streets
22 and Highways Code, or an entity administering a ~~PACE assessment~~
23 *financing program on behalf of and with written consent of a public*
24 *agency, and, for the purposes of Article 3 (commencing with*
25 *Section 26070), a financial institution providing a loan pursuant*
26 *to that chapter to finance the installation of distributed generation*
27 *renewable energy sources, electric vehicle charging infrastructure,*
28 *or energy or water efficiency improvements.*

29 ~~SEC. 2.~~

30 SEC. 3. Section 26055 of the Public Resources Code is
31 amended to read:

1 26055. “PACE program” means a program established by an
2 applicant that is financed by the PACE bond or a PACE assessment
3 program regardless of funding sources.

4 ~~SEC. 3.~~

5 *SEC. 4.* Section 26060 of the Public Resources Code is
6 amended to read:

7 26060. (a) The authority shall develop and administer a PACE
8 Reserve program to reduce overall costs to the property owners
9 of PACE bonds issued by an applicant by providing a reserve of
10 no more than 10 percent of the initial principal amount of the PACE
11 bond.

12 (b) The authority shall develop and administer a PACE risk
13 mitigation program for PACE ~~assessments~~ *financing* to increase
14 ~~their~~ *its* acceptance in the marketplace and protect against the risk
15 of default and foreclosure.

16 ~~SEC. 4.~~

17 *SEC. 5.* Section 26061 of the Public Resources Code is
18 amended to read:

19 26061. To qualify for assistance pursuant to this chapter, the
20 PACE program shall require all of the following:

21 (a) The interest rate on the PACE bond does not exceed a
22 percentage as determined by the authority to be appropriate.

23 (b) Minimum legal ~~assessment~~ *financing* structure and credit
24 underwriting criteria as determined by the authority are met.

25 (c) Proceeds of the PACE bonds are used to finance qualified
26 energy and water efficiency, electric vehicle charging
27 infrastructure, and clean energy improvements.

28 (d) The improvement financed is for a residential project of
29 three units or fewer, or a commercial project that costs less than
30 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in total.

31 ~~SEC. 5.~~

32 *SEC. 6.* Section 26062 of the Public Resources Code is
33 amended to read:

34 26062. An applicant shall submit to the authority an application
35 providing a detailed description of the PACE program, a detailed
36 description of the transactional activities associated with the PACE
37 bond issuance, including all transactional costs, information
38 regarding any credit enhancement or insurance associated with the
39 PACE ~~assessment~~ program, and other information deemed
40 necessary by the authority.

1 ~~SEC. 6.~~

2 *SEC. 7.* Section 26063 of the Public Resources Code is
3 amended to read:

4 26063. (a) In evaluating eligibility, the authority shall consider
5 whether the applicant's PACE program includes the following
6 conditions:

7 (1) ~~Assessment~~*Financing* recipients are legal owners of
8 underlying property.

9 (2) ~~Assessment~~*Financing* recipients are current on mortgage
10 and property tax payments.

11 (3) ~~Assessment~~*Financing* recipients are not in default or in
12 bankruptcy proceedings.

13 (4) ~~Assessment~~*Financing* is for less than 15 percent of the value
14 of the ~~property~~ *property, up to the first seven hundred thousand*
15 *dollars (\$700,000) of the value of the property, and is for less than*
16 *10 percent of the remaining value of the property above seven*
17 *hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000).*

18 (5) The property is within the geographical boundaries of the
19 PACE program.

20 (6) The program offers financing for energy *or water* efficiency
21 ~~improvements~~ *or improvements*, electric vehicle charging
22 ~~infrastructure~~ *infrastructure, or clean energy improvements.*

23 (7) Improvements financed by the program follow applicable
24 standards of energy efficiency retrofit work, including any
25 guidelines adopted by the State Energy Resources Conservation
26 and Development Commission.

27 (b) In evaluating an application, the authority shall consider all
28 of the following factors:

29 (1) The use by the PACE program of best practices, adopted by
30 the authority, to qualify eligible properties for participation in
31 underwriting the PACE program.

32 (2) The cost efficiency of the applicant's PACE program,
33 including bond issuance, credit enhancement, or insurance.

34 (3) The projected number of jobs created by the PACE program.

35 (4) The applicant's PACE program requirements for quality
36 assurance and consumer protection as related to achieving
37 efficiency and clean energy production.

38 (5) The mechanisms by which savings produced by this program
39 are passed on to the property owners.

- 1 (6) Any other factors deemed appropriate by the authority.

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