

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 415

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

February 19, 2015

An act to amend Section 2831 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 415, as introduced, Chávez. Green Tariff Shared Renewables Program.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. The Green Tariff Shared Renewables Program requires a participating utility, defined as being an electrical corporation with 100,000 or more customers in California, to file with the commission an application requesting approval of a tariff to implement a program enabling ratepayers to participate in electrical generation facilities that use eligible renewable energy resources, consistent with certain legislative findings and statements of intent.

This bill would make a nonsubstantive revision to the legislative findings and statements of intent.

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 2831 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 2831. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

4 (a) Building operational generating facilities that utilize sources
5 of renewable energy within California, to supply the state's demand
6 for electricity, provides significant financial, health, environmental,
7 and workforce benefits to the State of California.

8 (b) The California Solar Initiative will achieve its goals, resulting
9 in over 150,000 residential and commercial onsite installations of
10 solar energy systems. However, the California Solar Initiative
11 cannot reach all residents and businesses that want to participate
12 and is limited to only solar energy systems and not other eligible
13 renewable energy resources. A green tariff shared renewables
14 program seeks to build on the success of the California Solar
15 Initiative by expanding access to all eligible renewable energy
16 resources to all ratepayers who are currently unable to access the
17 benefits of onsite generation.

18 (c) There is widespread interest from many large institutional
19 customers, including schools, colleges, universities, local
20 governments, businesses, and the military, for the development of
21 generation facilities that are eligible renewable energy resources
22 to serve more than 33 percent of their energy needs.

23 (d) Public institutions will benefit from a green tariff shared
24 renewables program's enhanced flexibility to participate in shared
25 generation facilities that are eligible renewable energy resources.

26 (e) Building operational generating facilities that are eligible
27 renewable energy resources creates jobs, reduces emissions of
28 greenhouse gases, and promotes energy independence.

29 (f) Many large energy users in California have pursued onsite
30 electrical generation from eligible renewable energy resources,
31 but cannot achieve their goals due to rooftop or land space
32 limitations, or size limits on net energy metering. The enactment
33 of this chapter will create a mechanism whereby institutional
34 customers, such as military installations, universities, and local
35 governments, as well as commercial customers and groups of
36 individuals, can meet their needs with electrical generation from
37 eligible renewable energy resources.

1 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that a green tariff shared
2 renewables program be implemented in ~~such~~ a manner that
3 facilitates a large, sustainable market for offsite electrical
4 generation from facilities that are eligible renewable energy
5 resources, while fairly compensating electrical corporations for
6 the services they provide, without affecting nonparticipating
7 ratepayers.

8 (h) It is the further intent of the Legislature that a green tariff
9 shared renewables program be implemented in a manner that
10 ensures nonparticipating ratepayer indifference for the remaining
11 bundled service, direct access, and community choice aggregation
12 customers.

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