

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 793

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk

February 25, 2015

An act to amend Section 2790 of, and to add Section 8365 to, the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 793, as introduced, Quirk. Energy efficiency.

(1) Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations and gas corporations, as defined. Existing law requires the commission to require an electrical or gas corporation to perform home weatherization services for low-income customers, if the commission determines that a significant need for those services exists in the corporation's service territory. For these purposes, existing law authorizes weatherization, where feasible, to include certain measures for a dwelling unit. Existing law also authorizes weatherization, for these purposes, to include other measures determined by the commission to be feasible, taking into consideration the cost-effectiveness of the measures as a whole and the policy of reducing energy-related hardships facing low-income households.

This bill would require weatherization, for the above-specified purposes, to include home energy management technology, as defined, determined by the commission to be feasible, taking into consideration the above-described factors.

(2) Existing law requires the commission, by July 1, 2010, and in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, the Independent System Operator, and other

key stakeholders, to determine the requirements for a smart grid deployment plan consistent with specified policies and federal law. Existing law requires each electrical corporation, by July 1, 2011, to develop and submit a smart grid deployment plan to the commission for approval.

This bill would require the commission to require each electrical corporation to develop and implement a plan to educate its residential and small business customers whose homes or places of business are equipped with an advanced meter about how they can use data from the advanced meter to better understand and control their use of electricity. The bill would require the commission to require each electrical corporation to develop a rebate program to reimburse a residential or small business customer, as prescribed, who purchases energy management technology for use in the customer’s home or place of business.

(3) Because a violation of any part of any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the Public Utilities Commission is a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2790 of the Public Utilities Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 2790. (a) The commission shall require an electrical or gas
- 4 corporation to perform home weatherization services for
- 5 low-income customers, as determined by the commission under
- 6 Section 739, if the commission determines that a significant need
- 7 for those services exists in the corporation’s service territory, taking
- 8 into consideration both the cost-effectiveness of the services and
- 9 the policy of reducing the hardships facing low-income households.
- 10 (b) (1) For purposes of this section, “weatherization” may
- 11 include, where feasible, any of the following measures for any
- 12 dwelling unit:

- 1 (A) Attic insulation.
- 2 (B) Caulking.
- 3 (C) Weatherstripping.
- 4 (D) Low flow showerhead.
- 5 (E) Waterheater blanket.
- 6 (F) Door and building envelope repairs that reduce air
- 7 infiltration.

8 (2) The commission shall direct any electrical or gas corporation
9 to provide as many of these measures as are feasible for each
10 eligible low-income dwelling unit.

11 (c) “Weatherization” may also include other building
12 conservation measures, *home energy management technology*,
13 energy-efficient appliances, and energy education programs
14 determined by the commission to be feasible, taking into
15 consideration for all measures both the cost-effectiveness of the
16 measures as a whole and the policy of reducing energy-related
17 hardships facing low-income households.

18 (d) Weatherization programs shall use the needs assessment
19 pursuant to Section 382.1 to maximize efficiency of delivery.

20 (e) *For purposes of this section, the following terms have the*
21 *following meanings:*

22 (1) *“Home energy management technology” is a product or*
23 *service that allows a customer to better understand and manage*
24 *energy use in the customer’s home and may include, but is not*
25 *limited to, a home energy monitor.*

26 (2) *“Home energy monitor” is a device that is able to provide*
27 *household electricity consumption in real-time by connecting to*
28 *an advanced meter equipped with home area network functionality.*

29 SEC. 2. Section 8365 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
30 read:

31 8365. (a) The commission shall require each electrical
32 corporation to do the following:

33 (1) Develop and implement a plan by June 30, 2016, to educate
34 its residential customers and small business customers whose
35 homes or places of business are equipped with an advanced meter
36 about how they can use data from the advanced meter to better
37 understand and control their use of electricity. The plan shall
38 include notification of the rebate program developed pursuant to
39 paragraph (2).

1 (2) Develop a rebate program no later than June 30, 2016, to
2 reimburse a residential customer or small business customer who
3 purchases energy management technology for use in the customer’s
4 home or place of business. The rebate shall be an amount equal to
5 ___ percent of the retail value of the product or service, not to
6 exceed ___.

7 (b) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
8 following meanings:

9 (1) “Energy management technology” is a product or service
10 that allows a customer to better understand and manage electricity
11 use in the customer’s home or place of business and may include,
12 but is not limited to, an energy monitor.

13 (2) “Energy monitor” is a device that is able to provide
14 electricity consumption in real-time or near real-time by connecting
15 to an advanced meter equipped with home area network
16 functionality.

17 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
18 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
19 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
20 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
21 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
22 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
23 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
24 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
25 Constitution.