

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2617

Introduced by Assembly Member Mayes

February 19, 2016

An act to add Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 25685) to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2617, as amended, Mayes. Water efficiency measures.

The California Constitution requires that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable and that the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented. Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), on a biennial basis, to conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery, and distribution. Existing law requires the Energy Commission, beginning November 1, 2003, and biennially thereafter, to adopt an integrated energy policy report containing an overview of major energy trends and issues facing the state.

This bill would require the Energy Commission to develop and solicit comments on a proposed report, in consultation with certain subject matter experts and in cooperation with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources, by December 1, 2017, and, by July 1, 2018, to issue a final report that contains, among other things, the projected benefits of recommended voluntary water

efficiency measures and an analysis of any unintended adverse environmental impacts that would result from various water efficiency measures.

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. Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 25685)
2 is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

3
4 CHAPTER 7.8. COST-EFFECTIVE WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES
5

6 25685. It is the intent of the Legislature that the state identify
7 and recommend the most cost-effective water efficiency measures
8 that achieve the greatest reduction in water use and ~~avoid~~ *produce*
9 *net environmental benefits that outweigh* any unintended adverse
10 environmental impacts.

11 25686. As used in this chapter:

12 (a) “Evapotranspiration” means a loss of water from the soil,
13 including losses resulting from evaporation and losses resulting
14 from transpiration from the plants growing on the soil.

15 (b) “Highly efficient consumer appliances and landscape
16 systems” include, but are not limited to, irrigation systems, toilets,
17 showers, pool covers, and clothes washers.

18 (c) “Public entity” has the same meaning as defined in Section
19 375 of the Water Code.

20 (d) “Turfgrass” means any living grass that is used in fields or
21 yards at a residential or commercial property, private park, athletic
22 field, or public school.

23 (e) “Unintended adverse environmental impacts” include, but
24 are not limited to, impacts on climate change, net effect on carbon
25 sequestration, increased erosion, and impacts to stormwater runoff.

26 25687. By December 1, 2017, the commission, in consultation
27 with persons that include, but are not limited to, subject matter
28 experts at the University of California, the California State
29 University, and local water districts, and in cooperation with the
30 State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water
31 Resources, shall develop and solicit comments on a proposed report
32 that contains all of the following:

1 (a) An analysis of the relative costs and benefits of incentives
2 for various water efficiency measures, including the consideration
3 of the impact of evapotranspiration rates in different hydrological
4 regions of the state. The water efficiency measures considered
5 shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

6 (1) Turfgrass removal and replacement with either
7 drought-resistant turfgrass or artificial turf.

8 (2) *Turfgrass removal and replacement with native or*
9 *drought-tolerant plants.*

10 ~~(2)~~

11 (3) The use of conservation-based irrigation technology such
12 as smart controllers.

13 ~~(3)~~

14 (4) Investments in graywater infrastructure to supply water to
15 outdoor landscapes.

16 ~~(4)~~

17 (5) Rebates for highly efficient consumer appliances and
18 landscape systems.

19 (b) An analysis of any unintended adverse environmental
20 impacts that would result from the water efficiency measures
21 considered pursuant to subdivision (a).

22 (c) The projected benefits of recommended voluntary water
23 efficiency measures.

24 25688. By July 1, 2018, the commission shall issue a final
25 report that contains all of the following:

26 (a) An identification of the most cost-effective incentives for
27 water efficiency measures in terms of water use reduction per
28 dollar spent.

29 (b) Recommendations to public entities to help them prioritize
30 the most cost-effective solutions for granting incentives or rebates
31 for water efficiency measures.

32 (c) An analysis of any unintended adverse environmental
33 impacts that would result from the water efficiency measures
34 considered pursuant to subdivision (a).

35 (d) The projected benefits of recommended voluntary water
36 efficiency measures.

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