

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2135

**Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo and Williams)**

February 23, 2012

An act to add Section 18941.11 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to building standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2135, as introduced, Blumenfield. Building standards: solar distributed generation technology on residential and commercial property.

The California Building Standards Law provides for the adoption of building standards by state agencies by requiring all state agencies that adopt or propose adoption of any building standard to submit the building standard to the California Building Standards Commission for approval and adoption. In the absence of a designated state agency, the commission is required to adopt specific building standards, as prescribed. Existing law requires the commission to publish, or cause to be published, editions of the code in its entirety once every 3 years. The commission is authorized to act through a procedure for emergency standards, as defined, upon a finding of an emergency.

This bill would authorize the commission, before the conclusion of the 2012 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle of the California Building Standards Code on January 1, 2014, to adopt building standards for solar distributed generation technology on residential and commercial property pursuant to the procedures for emergency standards without the necessity of making a finding of an emergency. The bill would also require the commission to develop a model ordinance and guidelines

to assist local agencies to develop building standards and permitting processes for solar distributed generation technology on residential and commercial property and post the model ordinance and guidelines on its Internet Web site.

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) The state urgently needs to assist local jurisdictions in the
4 deployment of clean energy distributed generation technology.
- 5 (b) The state can assist local jurisdictions in deploying this
6 technology by developing statewide building standards and
7 recommendations for the installation of basic solar equipment on
8 residential and commercial property.
- 9 (c) Electricity generated from solar power can assist the state
10 in solving an array of environmental and economic problems
11 related to energy production, including, but not limited to, assisting
12 the state in reaching its environmental goals.
- 13 (d) In recent years, the state has both encouraged the
14 development of innovative distributed generation technology and
15 prioritized the widespread adoption of solar power as a renewable
16 energy resource.
- 17 (e) To assist local jurisdictions and reach state environmental
18 goals, it is imperative that the California Building Standards Code
19 addresses technological advances through appropriate building
20 standards and permitting policies for the installation of solar
21 distributed generation technology and that local jurisdictions
22 receive guidance on how to apply those standards and policies to
23 ensure safe, reasonable, and consistent code enforcement.
- 24 (f) A streamlined, consistent process for installations of solar
25 distributed generation technology on residential and commercial
26 property will eliminate unnecessary waste and variability across
27 jurisdictions, reduce the cost of solar power, increase the
28 deployment of solar distributed generation technology, provide
29 solar customers with greater installation ease, and generate much
30 needed jobs in the state, all while maintaining safety standards.

1 (g) The state encourages local jurisdictions to develop or amend
2 their building standards and permitting processes to ensure there
3 exists a low cost, streamlined process for the deployment and
4 installation of solar distributed generation technology on residential
5 and commercial property.

6 SEC. 2. Section 18941.11 is added to the Health and Safety
7 Code, to read:

8 18941.11. (a) Before the conclusion of the 2012 Triennial
9 Code Adoption Cycle of the California Building Standards Code
10 (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) on January 1,
11 2014, the commission may adopt building standards for solar
12 distributed generation technology on residential and commercial
13 property pursuant to the procedures for emergency standards
14 without the necessity of making a finding of an emergency.

15 (b) The commission shall develop a model ordinance and
16 guidelines that assist local agencies to develop building standards
17 and permitting processes for solar distributed generation technology
18 on residential and commercial property. The commission shall
19 post the model ordinance and guidelines on its Internet Web site.